



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Eaton Park
28th May 2014
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Pauly-D Jones)

Permissions: We are very grateful to

- Steve Gauller & Bob the Caretaker at the Catholic High School (It was great to have use of the Gym on such an evening)
- Kirsty Walker and the Grosvenor Estate
- Rose Millington and Cheshire West & Chester Council

and to Jane Mockford for all her work in securing access to the area and facilities.

Profuse thanks to all helpers and apologies to those of you whose runs were affected/curtailed by the failing light.

Well done to all participants for coming along and taking on the challenge of Robin's courses despite the weather and conditions underfoot. He and Anthony have provided usefully detailed commentaries below.

Planner's Comments (Robin Tilston)

"Planners Apology"

Well it has finally happened! It has rained on my event after 25 years of good weather. This is what I am apologising about, not the courses. I always plan longer than average courses as that was what I was brought up on. 7.5 km Blues were the norm in Delamere when I started Orienteering so I have tended to set long courses on the basis that you should at least get your money's worth. I always try to make the longer courses hard (although TD5 is almost impossible to find on most of our areas) and try to minimise track running so that the good navigator has a sporting chance over the fast runner.

I don't think that Eaton Park is as bad as is made out. There are nettles and brambles but not so extreme as to outdo Petty Pool, Primrose Hill or parts of

Delamere. At least here the nettles seem largely to be confined to the sides of the drive.

The weather was particularly horrible with more or less constant rain and low cloud which for late runners meant poor light in the woods. Some retired or shortened their course as they were unable to read their map. The muddy paths did not help and were much worse than they had been during planning.

On the plus side very few complained about the courses, only the weather. In the past some people have been known to say Robin planned this so I will run a lesser course. Having said that one young lady said she was never ever going to run on one of my courses ever again which I thought was a bit extreme. If I, in my physical state and at my age, could struggle through the woods trying to find interesting control sites for you to visit then younger fit people should have no problem at all running the courses.

The spread of speed (mins/km) is interesting:

Blue	8.1 – 22
Green	10.6 - 22.8
Light Green	11.1 - 31.7
Orange	18.2 – 26
Yellow	8.6 - 17.3

Also finishers against starters:

Blue	11 out of 22	78%
Green	10 out of 19	52%
Light Green	20 out of 25	50%
Orange	2 out of 5	52%
Yellow	9 out of 9	100%

Well done Yellow mud paddlers

And for my next trick I am controlling Jean Payne at Little Budworth next week. Combined we might score another hardish event.

Anthony's Controlling did not lessen the impact of the weather and the nature of Eaton Park. He did express concern over 224 (B 25 & G 3) so I eliminated it from Light Green and made other useful comments on the courses which I acted upon. One of which was the re-siting 245 from the west knoll to the depression that so many people had difficulty with.

I am thankful for the assistance I received from Paul, Gwyn and Anthony putting out the controls in relatively dry weather. And, of course, the same people plus Steve Ingleby collecting afterwards in horrible conditions. We were fortunate in that we had a nice dry base in the Gym and a good car park courtesy of the School.

Controller's Comments (Anthony Brockway)

Many thanks to the helpers and the competitors who turned out on a miserable night to navigate round a challenging, wet, muddy and dark Eaton Park. As the evening went on the rain continued and mist formed making it more like a Night Event. Problems with steamed up/ rain speckled glasses, wet, muddy, torn maps. You certainly had extremely challenging conditions.

Nine days before the paths and much of the woods were dry and runnable, that night the Thunder storm hit and it feels like it has been raining heavily ever since. The vegetation has grown quickly and the ground water has risen considerably creating the extreme condition on the night.

I spoke to many of you as you finished and identified a number of problem controls, the following observations may be helpful:

Yellow Course Number 9 – The Control Kite had been stolen/removed (not found on the night). The SI box was in place. Once known the Control Kite was replaced.

Orange Course Number 9 – Control located right on path through Undergrowth: Fight. Have since noticed that the red line linking Controls 8 and 9 obscures a path that could affect route choice.

Light Green 15/ Green 19/ Blue 24 – Many competitors tried to use the boundary fence as an attack point, approaching the control through the dense vegetation. The fence line is not as clear partly due to vegetation. When putting out controls it was approached from the middle path through the Woodland: runnable, the Depression was visible from this path.

Light Green 19/ Green 21 / Blue 27 – Some competitors approaching the earth bank were distracted by a pond close to a path junction (with Control on it). The pond is marked as a seasonal pond, given the light level in the woods this would have been difficult to see on the map.

Thanks to Robin for finding some interesting control sites and producing challenging courses. A number of competitors finishing said of the courses 'that was hard', most had smiles on their faces.

Thanks to Paul for organising the event and team on the night.

Thanks again to everyone who turned out, it was not the weather we want when orienteering, but you all gave it a good go. The Summer evening Events are training events and I have certainly learnt a lot, possibly more so because of the extreme weather. I hope you have also gained something to improve your orienteering.