



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Summer Evening Event
Queens Park Crewe
25 June 2014
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Sue Sherwood)

I hope all participants enjoyed the warm summer evening sprint event at Queens Park, Crewe. I would like to thank the many experienced helpers especially Jane Mockford, previous organiser of this event, and also Andy, the Planner, and Pete, Controller, who made the event run smoothly. I would also like to thank Queens Park Manager Elaine Webster for permission, Andrew Latham at Cheshire East Council for his support and guidance and Jessica Reilly for making The Pickle Jar at Lakeside Pavilion available for our use and providing very welcome refreshments.

We were set up to cope with more participants than arrived on the night, so it was disappointing that more people were not able to experience and enjoy Andy's courses.

Planner's Comments (Andy Payne)

Fast orienteering in a beautiful park on a pleasant summer evening – that's what sprint orienteering is all about. With Olly Williams's excellent map, an ornamental park created by Victorian city fathers for the railway workers to enjoy, and the weather specially ordered by the club chairman, planning sprint courses was a delight.

I used the format developed for the Reaseheath Event to minimize the number of courses but allow all colour courses except Yellow to do 2 short sprints. The area to the East was unusable in summer due to the vicious vegetation in the woods. I tried to give some variety for each 2-course combination with some flat out running legs, route choice legs and short control picking sections and loops. The tricky planning bits are to get each colour course to visit different areas of the park and to minimise the number of controls needed (42 for this event). Also control vandalism was a concern beforehand and we used nearly all the club's supply of gripples (3 needed for some large trees). Fortunately we didn't lose any kit.

On the Blue course, leg 1 – 2 had a route choice out of the park and it was good to see some using the north route as we had to arrange a marshall for the road crossing there. There were some fast times on all courses which is as it should be; quick decisions and

accurate navigation near the control needed for success. As usual the Yellow course was the most difficult to plan and the entries on this course and Orange were disappointing. If you enjoyed the event, spread the word about sprint orienteering to others in the club and beyond.

Controller's Comments (Pete Owens)

Fine weather, a café to supply bacon butties, ice cream and coffee, indoor assembly area with a balcony to spectate from, all the controls within a 5 minute stroll all makes for an easy job as controller. Having to gripple all the controls did mean that setting up the courses took longer than expected so it was a bit hectic just before the start of the event.

Andy made good use of the area and planned contrasting style courses to give variety on the two stages. Using a smaller number of controls than last year did result in some fast winning times, but Olly is very fast and did produce the map so that is only to be expected. It would be good to run an event earlier in the year to make use of the woods to the east.

One or two issues did come to light during the event. The area surrounding control 235 (between the knolls at the western edge of the park) had lower visibility than the map implied. Andy hung the kite high to maximize the chance of it being seen, but a few runners lost time there. An old tag not far from control 228 (a tree at the south edge of the park) caused some to assume the control had been stolen, but the control was still sited at the correct location.