



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB  
Summer Evening Event  
Bryn Alyn  
10th July 2014  
Officials' Comments



### Organiser's Comments (Phil Hay)

**Safety risk assessment:** Because of the strike by civil servants I ended up having to drag my daughters around to help out this included putting the signs out on the road we put on high viz bibs to do this and we were naturally very careful. However, it was something that I had not included in the H&S risk assessment. Another issue was that one of the people I'd asked to collect controls took a long time to return, it turned out he'd only been orienteering for 18 months.

These are probably lessons for me as much as anything but looking back at the Risk assessment there are some fundamental flaws in it as far as the approach, namely the Hazard identification focuses firstly on environments rather than activities, secondly it principally focuses on runners and not on all of the ancillary activities done by helpers

I'm very grateful for the help people gave on the night – we had enough people in the end I did find it quite a task getting people involved. It's a long time since I last organized an event and wow has the process changed, It felt like I'd started a new job! I can see a lot of effort has gone into organising resources, and various people were helpful in pointing me in the right direction and sorting things out. I did find the amount of documentation rather overwhelming, rather repetitive in places and some of the links to the BOF website were out of date. For me I felt I could have done with a stripped down version.

### Planner's Comments (Pete Owens)

Bryn Alyn is a fine area, but the constraints imposed by the fences make it tricky to plan fully technical legs or long route choices. I did manage to include a few long legs on the technical courses so please put your routes up on Routegadget so I can see how they worked.

The detailed contours and significant climb meant that it was worth putting on both short green and light green courses, with the former maximizing the technical difficulty while attempting to limit the physical challenge.

The start had to be put high up to minimize the climb on the courses; I hope the fine scenery made up for the long walk to the start.

What a difference a month makes. When I visited the area at the end of May it was all fast runnable cropped grass with a few scattered areas of gorse – as shown on the map. By the end of June (when I tagged the control sites wearing shorts!) the nettles had reached maximum potency. These died down a bit by the day of the event, only to be replaced by thistles and head high bracken. Thanks are due to Andrew for bringing his sickle to clear some of the most overgrown control sites.

## **Controller's Comments (Andrew Tarr)**

Last summer's event at Bryn Alyn was 4 weeks earlier. This year's spring was also 2 or 3 weeks earlier, which explains why the vegetation was much more vicious this time. On the plus side, no controls vanished, which at least saved the club some money - and the weather could hardly have been better.

Peter devised some clever courses which made you visit all the area with the minimum use of crossing points. I thought the Light Green course was a bit too Dark, especially the tough climb from 1 to 2. But after we had waited until about 7 o'clock, happy runners started to appear at the Finish, posting some reasonable times. However many people were out for longer than I would have liked, and I daren't contemplate the effect of poor weather. Shows the difficulty of basing course lengths on recent results - summer vegetation is always hard to predict.

My thanks to Peter for doing all the donkey work, and to Phil for his careful organisation. The parking, registration and download arrangement was novel and seemed to work well, and we have probably set a record for the number of daily crossings of that stile. It occurred to me that someone should look for a desirable product from thistles, perhaps making a fortune in the same way as poppies.

I think this will be my last outing as controller - it's becoming just too physically unpleasant.