



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Erddig
23rd July 2014
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Sian Calow)

I approached the event at 3.30pm in the afternoon to be greeted by ominous signs proclaiming that the road was going to be closed at the junction to the event from 7pm that evening. Great start! Fortunately it transpired that cars would be able to exit the event and you were all spared an overnight bivouac in the parking field (lucky escape there!). Thank you to my team of willing helpers who enabled the event to run smoothly - I hope that you didn't get too sunburnt. The vegetation in the car parking field was rather rampant but poor Ed Calow and Gwyn Thomas did a great job ensuring that there was sufficient room for everyone to park. Later on in the evening the midges became rather vicious – sorry Helen Elmes if you got eaten alive at the Finish. Finally, I must thank Laurel Smith who is the Volunteer and Community Involvement Officer for The National Trust at Erddig – she has been most helpful and has allowed Deeside to park and use the Melin Puleston site for download and toilets.

Planner's Comments (Denis Murphy)

Firstly many thanks to Sian and Norman.

Sian's thorough organisation seemed effortless. When we arrived at Felin Puleston there were signs saying that the roads around were to be closed from 7.00pm and we had visions of being marooned in the car park for the next twelve hours. Sian only panicked slightly at this news (and then went off to sort out everything with the construction crew).

No one could have known that this was the first event Norman had controlled! He was meticulous in every aspect and gave great confidence and support. Just to put a bit of pressure on himself he did the SI job as well.

People seemed to have enjoyed the reasonably nettle free course and the beautiful summer evening. A group of teenagers had taken the canes and submerged the control flags 183 and 222 but these were easily found and gripped. With so many people around I think that gripping every control saved the evening!

I tried to get the length for the blue course by using the large field to the west of the house rather than the area east of the Sontley road as last year (using this field also meant that the light green course did not have to run up into the woods and back down the same path). The trees were mapped as white with the area and shape reflecting the trees in full foliage. I had checked up on the IOF regulations before putting the two far controls close together – I regarded these as very different features.

I promise I won't plan the Erddig event next year.

Controller's Comments (Norman Hall)

I hope you all enjoyed your runs and we must thank Sian for organising the beautiful weather.

My first venture into controlling was made very easy by Denis, who as the mapper and the planner for all the events that have taken place at Erddig, didn't leave me with much to do. The river and its few crossing places do limit the way courses can go and one or two runners had some confusion with the closeness of control circles on opposite sides of the river. One thing I should have spotted was two controls (198 and 223) in the SW being perhaps too close to one another, apologies if you were affected by this.

Luckily on the day the herd of about 40 bullocks and cows had been moved from the SW field on the Blue and Lt Green courses, they had been quite frisky but may have improved race times if they had been there!!

Norman Hall
Controller (of very junior rank)