



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Level B
Formby Dunes
05 Oct 2014
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Norman Hall)

I hope everybody enjoyed their day out at the seaside on the fantastic Sefton Coastal Dunes and got their heads around the technicality of the area.

The central location of the Parking and Assembly areas, with starts and finish close by, made the overall organisation a lot easier than Ainsdale two years ago. Still the hassle of dealing with multiple landowners and governing bodies, but they were all very accommodating and helpful. Thanks to Rachel Northover of the Sefton Coastal Service, Andrew Brockbank of the National Trust and to Natural England for making the event possible.

The day seemed to go well with no apparent major glitches, which was down to the super efficient Deeside helpers team who as usual did a top notch job. Special thanks must go to Elaine Sutton and Darren Baker who not only organised and ran the Start area but also put controls out the day before and on the event morning and then collected in again after the competition finished. Alan Mullock also deserves a mention in dispatches for helping me to set up the area on Saturday and Sunday morning as well as a long stint on car park duty.

My thanks to planner Steve McClean and Controller Andy Quickfall for producing courses that were well received by competitors,

I include below an email sent to me by a member of the public who was out and about on the dunes at the time of the event concerning his impression of orienteering on the day.

Hello Norman

I don't pretend to understand the details of following an Orienteering course or why competitors were scurrying in all directions around the Dunes on Sunday morning - but it was great fun watching them!

I regularly walk my dogs and probably know almost every path, track, dune and crater along this part of the coast and thought the choice of placement of "markers" was quite remarkable. Sitting watching runners (from some very high vantage points) pass within feet but on the wrong side of a small mound gave some indication of the difficulties they encountered.

It was good to see so many ages participating in this beautiful setting that me and my dog are privileged to enjoy almost every day.

On the down-side, as an older walker brought up to respect others in a much different world, I feel I should comment on the extremes of standards of behaviour between competitors.

When crossing their paths or meeting runners, I always called the dog to me and held it close whilst the runner passed.

Without exception, the more mature runners all made some polite remark from a brief chat to a simple "Thanks".

This was in marked contrast to the very young who seemed to think I should have eyes in the back of my head, automatically give them "right of way", that I should leap immediately into the undergrowth and make my dog instantly disappear from their path if they approached unobserved from behind.

On the plus side many little used minor paths and rabbit-runs have been re-opened for my continued pleasure! With autumn approaching, they should now stay clear into spring!

The whole of your event organisation seemed to go well with minimal impact on the regular walkers, several of whom commented echoing my sentiments and specific criticism.

I hope you accept my constructive criticism in the spirit intended and relay it to future events so that the inevitable few uncouth competitors will not tarnish the overall impression of fun, fitness and sheer pleasure in the great outdoors created by the extremely polite majority.

Kind regards
Graham

Are some of us so competitive that we ignore everyone else? A cause for concern regarding how other users see us? Something we perhaps need to keep in mind.

Norman Hall

Planner's Comments (Steve McLean)

Many thanks to everyone for coming along to Formby on a lovely day and for lots of positive comments. Also to all involved in making it happen.

Initial planning was completed 12 months ago however the vegetation seemed excessive this summer and I wasn't confident it would die back sufficiently. This meant a fair bit of re-planning, not straightforward with a full set of courses. As it was, the area improved rapidly in the 3 weeks up to the event making it quite fast for the strongest runners and confident navigators.

It was very interesting observing on the day from various viewpoints and looking at routes on Routegadget and comparing splits.

Organiser Norman Hall, Controller Andy Quickfall, mapper Graham Nilsen and printer Iain Smith-Ward were excellent to work with and the usual various minor issues along the way were all easily managed.

Special thanks to Elaine Sutton and Darren Baker who exceeded expectations when standing in for me the day before while I worked in the Lakes. They also arrived very early Sunday morning to help finish control hanging then afterwards with control collection. In between they ran the start. Additionally, Darren collected and returned extra kit (thanks MDOC). I'm extremely grateful.

Finally, thanks to Sefton Coast and Countryside team, National Trust and Natural England for their support throughout which made my task much easier.

Controller's Comments (Andy Quickfall)

