



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Delamere Pale Heights
4th May 2017
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments(Sheila Hills)

What a lovely evening to be out orienteering, although it did get a bit chilly near the end. I don't think that there were any significant problems just a few niggly ones, as you will see in the other reports. Unfortunately, it would appear that not everyone reads the notice boards about course details before they start. There was an extra 'IMPORTANT NOTICE' beside the normal information board, in front of the registration car, and its title was in red!

My grateful thanks go to all my helpers for being so efficient, especially the car parking and start teams. I gather it was a rather cold wind up there! Also thank you to the people who put up and took down the Tunnel tent - not an easy task. A special thank you goes to those who helped all evening without the reward of a run.

Planner's Comments (Peter Hills)

Pale Heights is not an easy area to plan, especially for the technical courses, because there are really only two areas which offer challenging navigation: Nettlefold Wood in the south west and the area down by the stream on the east side. These two areas are separated by the hill, an area of little interest, much of which is in any case out-of-bounds fields. These considerations influenced me in deciding to put the start at the top of the hill, allowing the maximum use of the technical areas and reducing as far as possible simple path running. Judging from the comments afterwards, I think I succeeded reasonably well.

However, I must add to Steve's apologies concerning access to control #46. I have to admit that planners' eyes sometimes get a bit blinkered, assuming everyone will try to go the way they would. I should have spotted that the map was not helpful here. In Steve's defence, I must emphasise that he had a mammoth task in revising the whole of Delamere in the timescale available, and I would like to thank him for this. I would also like to thank him for all the support and helpful comments he gave me during the planning process.

I was a little disappointed in the turnout, which was significantly down on last year. We had no school group, and fewer than usual from MDOC, possibly because they had arranged an event at Lime Park on the same day! Still, those who did come were rewarded with lovely weather, and the views from the start were superb.

As well as my thanks to Steve already noted, I would like to thank Sheila for organising with her usual efficiency, and I would particularly like to thank the four helpers who assisted me in getting all the controls in before nightfall – Anthony Brockway , Chris Calow, Steve Ingleby (again), and Pauly Jones.

Controller & Mapper's Comments (Steve Ingleby)

I hope you enjoyed your run tonight on the Old Pale. I think that bringing the Pale Heights event forward from 17th May (in 2016) to 4th May meant that the nettle growth was just about tolerable, although the area would be so much better if used at least a month earlier.

Peter planned some challenging courses which were well received by competitors. His taping of control sites was excellent and made my job so much easier. Sheila and her gang of helpers ensured the organisation of the event ran smoothly with no discernible problems that I could see. So thank you to the Hills Family for putting on a great event. Unfortunately I did receive comments about the update of the map. The main complaint today appeared to be about the fact that access to control #46 from the path bend to the east was shown to be runnable, whereas there is a bramble patch in the way.

I spent most of January, March and April updating Delamere North (the event was cancelled due to loss of car parking), the Old Pale and finally various sections of forest for the Delamere East event. The error described above arose during the cartography of the ground survey and would normally have been picked up during the field check of the revised map. Unfortunately I did not have time to do this checking of the map due to the pressing issue of the revisions required to the Delamere East areas. So unfortunately all I can do is apologise to all those people affected – either losing time finding an alternative route, or getting scratched to pieces in fighting their way through the brambles.

I received another complaint that the water features on the map were not shown correctly, due to the dry weather immediately prior to the event. I'm really not sure what I could do about this matter, without continually updating the map up to the day of printing. If it there had been heavy rain immediately before the event I would have received complaints that the area was wetter than as shown on the map! We posted a notice alerting people about the dry condition of water features but clearly some people did not see the notice.

Despite the above deficiencies I hope that you found the updated map an improvement on the previous version. Can I make a plea for a volunteer to go out in January 2018 to check the updated sections of the Delamere map for accuracy – if you are interested please send me an e-mail?