



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB**  
Summer Evening Event  
Alyn Waters Country Park  
10 May 2017  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Bob Elmes)**

88 runners enjoyed the glorious weather and the interesting terrain at Alyn Waters Country Park. My thanks go to John Winter, the Ranger, for his help; Pauly-D the Planner and Andrew the Controller for producing interesting courses; and all the helpers who made my job as Organiser very simple.

### **Planner's Comments (Pauly-D Jones)**

Firstly my thanks:

To Andrew for his skill and patience with my lastminute.com approach  
To Bob for his calm and seemingly effortless organisation  
To Mike for mapping the significant changes since the last update  
To Robin for map printing and fascinating tales of yore  
To Lyn for company and teamwork setting out controls  
To Paul C and Chris for massive help with control collection  
To John Winter, Ranger at Wrexham Council for his support  
To Mother Nature for a truly beautiful May day

Next my apologies:

To anybody on the Green course who was confused by the absence of a Finish on the map ! Having encountered a delay in my already tight printing schedule, then difficulties in getting the course onto two sides, somehow I didn't check final printed maps thoroughly enough to spot this and had run out of time for my Controller to review them. I hope this didn't spoil your run.

The terrain at Alyn Waters is generally way more runnable than last time we ventured here back in the noughties and was almost entirely clear of nettles a couple of weeks ago, but it proved difficult to predict where they would sprout vigorously, so I hope your legs are not smarting too badly.

Finishing times suggest I slightly over-egged the length of the Light Green course and the length and maybe also technical difficulty on Orange - I hope this didn't detract from your enjoyment.

I would have liked to have made more use of the west side of the country park, but this was ruled out for all but Blue runners due to risk concerns about younger runners on the connecting lane even though it's very quiet. The upside is that I think there is good potential for a future schools league event using Mike's much updated map of the west side.

We had two reports of controls failing. The first one was definitely kaput and it was just my fault for forgetting my dibber to check. I sat and watched the second one for a while and was surprised to note that, whilst most punches registered immediately, the odd one would take some considerable time and it had earlier been reported that more than one runner had spent a good 30 seconds trying unsuccessfully to record a punch. We will examine both these controls to determine what the problem was, and we will keep them out of use until they have been fixed. Apologies to the (hopefully) small number of runners affected.

Finally some stats from my iPhone app:

Distance covered 24.3 km

Steps 30,400

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

It's quite a few years since we visited Alyn Waters - I had not seen it before and was pleasantly surprised. It has the common snags of a country park - a lot of open (runnable), a bit of nasty undergrowth, and quite a few dog walkers and other locals who might pose problems. But on a perfect spring evening a jog through some woodland and an occasional skirmish with burgeoning nettles has its attractions. In parts it is like Budworth with a scattering of surprisingly large knolls and pits.

During the event one or two SI units did not respond to some dibbers, perhaps due to obstruction by gripples; no-one was disqualified for that. Our faded kites either lurked dimly in the shade or stood out like beacons in sunlight, which adds another possible variation in 'fairness' depending on one's start time.

Thanks go to Mike Smithard for remapping the western section of the map; today's terrain bears little resemblance to the 2008 map, as he soon found out. Pauly planned interesting courses of the right length, and Bob demonstrated the standard of his organisation by having little to do himself. A shame that only about 80 runners came.