



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB**  
Schools League  
Hightown Dunes  
13 October 2018  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Andy Payne)**

This event was run in conjunction with the Army Cadet Force (ACF) Orienteering Championships which was held after the Schools League event. Hence the use of Altcar Training Camp for parking. Congratulations to all who completed their courses in some atrocious weather. Thank you to all who came to the event and for sending car registration details in advance.

My thanks to all the helpers who braved the rain to make the event happen and especially Bob Elmes and Pat Moody who spent all day in a storm battered tent doing the SI. The tent survived but sadly the Deeside feather banner didn't. Also many thanks to Norman for his excellent courses and Jean for controlling and doing a lot of liaison work with Phil Batts of the ACF.

Lost property – 1 small left hand black Kipsta glove

### **Planner's Comments (Norman Hall)**

With the assembly being at Altcar camp, the southern tail of the Hightown map would not have to be used, so I took the decision to enlarge the scale to 1:5000 to give a little more clarity to the map. This reduced the area to the centre of the original 1:7500 map but was perfectly adequate for Schools League requirements of White to Green courses. I think this worked well especially as runners were all having to cope with very soggy maps, a good work out for waterproof paper. The terrain in places was tough going, with deep marram grass interspersed with small bilberry type shrubs. Keeping to the paths and the many dog walkers' trails was the best option route choice for some legs.

At 6:30 in the morning, the dunes are good for wildlife – herons, barn owls, hawks, pheasants and lots of geese. This was the plus side of a very wet morning putting controls out.

Well done to the DEE team of helpers, especially Bob and Pat for manning (and surviving) the download tent all day.

## **Controller's Comments (Jean Payne)**

The use of Altcar Training Camp allowed Norman to plan courses that visited the northern part of Hightown which is a compact and bijou area of dunes. I thought his courses would make you all think. It was not as runnable as Formby neither was the weather as good – although I think we got off quite likely compared to other parts of the country. I was worried as Storm Callum developed but realized that as the temperatures were to remain unseasonably warm and there are no significant trees on the area then there were no reasons to cancel the event: it was extremely unlikely that anyone would come to harm due to the weather – risk assessment in action!