



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Middle Distance Level B
Bickerton Hill
2nd February 2020
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Edward Jones)

Having had many of the competitors pass on their appreciation of the courses and venue, I'd like as organizer on behalf of the club to pass on thanks to Andy as Planner, Eddie Speak for controlling, and the helpers on the day from the club whose collective experience and flair covering SI and Download through to managing the Start box meant for a very smooth running.

I would also like to thank the National Trust for providing access to one of our best orienteering venues, and to Bickerton Village Hall for hosting us.

Planner's Comments (Andy Payne)

Thank you to all for coming to the event and I hope you enjoyed the courses. It was nice to get the event off the ground as last year we had to cancel it due booking problems with the Village Hall. We were rewarded with a fine day for orienteering – certainly better than 6am when I was putting out controls in drizzle and mist.

Bickerton Hill is a good area for a Middle Distance event – mainly runnable, some good contour detail and varied vegetation. I aimed to have lots of short legs with changes in direction to maintain interest. I kept the Green and shorter courses away from the steep slope to minimize climb for them. The Black, Brown and Blue courses had some contouring on the steep slope for the first 3 controls and then the physical difficulty eased off.

Getting the right length courses can be tricky. The BO Guidelines suggest a 30-35 minute winning time for the Black course. This then defines the length of the other courses which are varying percentages of the Black course. The winning time on the Black course was 36m34s which was fairly close to the guidelines. The winning times on other courses seemed OK apart from the Very Short Green and Light Green which were long, showing that these courses were perhaps too long. I was pleased to see that there were few disqualifications. So you didn't find the courses too hard!

EOD seemed very popular and I was surprised that we ran out of maps on some courses. I allowed printing of 30% to 50% extra maps for EOD but some courses still ran out,

especially the short courses were there few pre-entries. My apologies to anyone who didn't get to run their chosen course.

My thanks to Eddie for his excellent, relaxed controlling and for printing the maps. Also thanks to Edward for his thorough organization of the event.

Controller's Comments (Eddie Speake)

I had relatively few comments on Andy's courses, helped by the fact that the first draft had been reviewed by the previous controller (Dave Mawdsley) for the postponed event. It was a pleasant couple of hours checking the controls on the morning, especially now the bracken has died back although this did make some of the unmapped paths more obvious. Due to a misunderstanding I got to traverse the steep slope twice!