



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB  
SEE: Double Sprint  
Queen's Park, Crewe  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Graham Nilsen)**

They say that the sun shines on the righteous: well, at least it stopped raining ....

Thanks are due, in particular, to the manager of the Pickle Jar (Mike Worthington) and his team for being so welcoming – the indoor base was really helpful – and for staying open late especially for us; also to Cheshire East Council and their Park Manager (Elaine Webster) for letting us use the park.

No prizes to the person who went home without his/her trousers (black, Karrimor, XL). If the owner would care to contact me, I am sure that a suitable ransom can be agreed.

The two previous evening events having each attracted fewer than 100 entries, we deliberately set out to minimise the number of people needed to stage this event. Not downloading between your runs was part of that – to reduce Anna's workload, particularly while registration was still open. Start and finish were deliberately adjacent, so that one person (planner and controller in turn) could supervise them. That one person would just answer questions, help beginners, and see that nothing was stolen – given a clock, I think that most people can start themselves; although I noticed that Jean decided that it was more fun to sit and boss you all around. Overall, if anything had gone wrong, I knew that I could rely on someone stepping in to help for a few minutes.

Stretching back as far as my childhood, the summer evening event programme has been one of Deeside's strengths: the frequency of events is good for beginners, and they give the rest of us the chance of practice, not-to-serious exercise and socialising. However, as the climate changes, we have increasing problems with undergrowth in many of the traditional evening event areas. Perhaps more use of park areas like this is a way forward: good enough to provide yellow and orange courses, with something else laid on for the more experienced. Better than head-high brambles?

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

Queens Park is a fun place to plan and is ideally suited to Sprinting. The yellow and orange courses fit easily into the park and unusually they were not the hardest courses to plan as they so often are in a forest environment.

Graham's formula for the sprint courses worked well. The discipline of planning 2 courses with a total of no more than 30 controls certainly made me think a bit more – I hope you enjoyed the results!

Jane kept me on an even keel – you all have her to thank for not running round in multiple circles gradually disappearing into the lake.

Sorry about the geese and their waste products – there wasn't as many on my first visit – but at least they were mostly friendly.

All the control sites survived contact with the general public and we didn't lose any equipment – always a worry with the more urban areas.

## **Controller's Comments (Jane Mockford)**

Thanks to Park Manager Elaine Webster, The Pickle Jar manager Mike Worthington and his team and Cheshire East Council for their permissions and support for the event. Jean, Graham and Anna made my job easy. Graham and Anna devised a way to run the event with 4 helpers, 3 of whom were the organiser, controller and planner. We should build on this approach for all future SEE events to reduce the pressure on numbers of volunteers.

If you have been to previous events, compare maps - the re-landscaping of the park has continued in the last two years and you'll see that whole paths have disappeared under grass.