



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Summer Evening Event
Rivacre Valley
5 July 2017
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Rachel Shanahan)

Rivacre is a great park for an event, however it does present an added challenge of the number of road crossings. In addition to the crossing from the car park to the start there is also a road crossing where the road cuts the park in half. Recruiting enough marshals to ensure we kept competitors safe made the number of required helpers quite high. Thanks to all the helpers, especially those who had a longer than expected journey due to the van fire on the motorway.

They say you should never work with children or animals; however as a mum of three small boys it's an occupational hazard. So, when I was woken as 6.30am with the news of a poorly boy I knew the day wasn't going to go to plan. Needless to say, it didn't and by mid-morning I had to hand over the reins of the event.

A massive thanks to Gwyn Thomas for agreeing to take over from me at such short notice. Thanks to Pete Owens for planning the routes and Norman Hall for coordinating the SI. A special thanks to controller Anthony Brockway, who in addition to his normal duties, coached me through organising my first event, his advice and support has been invaluable.

Organiser's Comments (Gwyn Thomas)

Taking over from Rachel at short notice did not duly concern me as I find on the day organization far easier than the prep work prior to the event day. This is mainly down to all the helpers who are familiar with what's required in running an event smoothly. Thank you to all.

Special thanks to Rachel who had already done the hard work when I took over. Hope Jacob makes a full recovery and you are all back with us soon.

Planner's Comments (Pete Owens)

Rivacre is a narrow area with a river running through it and cut in half by a road. Most route choices were always likely to be path runs, so I tried to plan legs where the optimum route required an early decision to reward planning ahead.

I tried to avoid the worst of the undergrowth, even so the foliage had grown considerably since the courses were planned, and some of the control sites needed clearing on the night. I initially thought that number 72 (in a large overgrown clearing) would need to be taken out of the courses, but Anthony managed to find the tag wearing shorts so we cut elephant tracks from all approaches and hung an extra kite high up. I am glad that all the yellow course competitors managed to spot their controls in the tunnels cut through the vegetation.

Thanks to Gwyn for stepping in at the last minute as Organiser.

Controller's Comments (Anthony Brockway)

Rachel is fairly new to the club and did a fantastic job of organizing, many thanks. Unfortunately she had to pull out on the day, all credit to her that the event ran with minor changes. Get well wishes to Jacob, hope you are up and about orienteering soon.

Special thanks to Gwyn who was on standby and stepped in on the day to take over as Organiser. Thanks also to Val (Gwyns' wife, and a non orienteer) who came down to help. She was tasked with car parking and then the Finish. She waited for 20 minutes for the last competitor to come in before Gwyn rescued her as the last competitor had retired some time before (in fairness it was my fault).

Thanks to Norman Hall for SI duties and to all the helpers on the night, it was good to see people rallying round, we had a talented team. Also thanks to Robin Tilston who is the person responsible for the printing of the maps.

Thanks to Pete for all the planning and useful information he enlightened me with, I will use it when next I plan an event. Did anyone notice the map change? Pete realigned the map to North only losing a small area of the map. As Pete has said, number 72 Clearing looked impenetrable, I tried from two different directions and found it, but finding it would have been luck so we made it a little easier. The times were longer than expected, on asking most delays were caused by the undergrowth, I personally could not believe how it had changed in 3 weeks, stupidly attending the event in shorts. Another lesson learned.

Thanks also to all the Athletes who took part, braved the bracken, and made everyone's efforts worthwhile.