



**Deeside Orienteering Club**  
**COMPASSPORT CUP/TROPHY HEAT**  
**LEVEL B event**  
**Sunday March 13 2016**  
**Bickerton Hill**  
**FINAL DETAILS**



- Travel** The event centre is at Bickerton Village Hall MR SJ 509538, SY14 8AU.  
From the West join the A534 at its junction with the A41, Broxton; then in approx 2 miles take a right turn at SJ 508539.  
From the East join the A534 at its junction with the A49, then in about 3 miles take the left turn at SJ 508539. (Speed limits, camera at Bulkeley).  
O signs near final turnoff only.
- Parking** In the Hall grounds and an adjacent field as directed by marshals. If the weather has been wet and the field becomes waterlogged, later arrivals may have to park at the roadside.
- Facilities** Enquiries/collection of pre-hired SI cards, Toilets, Registration for EOD, Download and Results will be situated in the Village Hall. No spikes or muddy shoes in the Hall please. There are additional toilets near the Start.  
Compass Point will be at the event selling a full range of orienteering equipment. There will be no catering at the event. There are two pubs which do food; The Sandstone, about 1k W, and the Bickerton Poacher, about 2k E, both on the A 534.
- Entry** Via club captains for competition courses (£8.50/£4); no EOD for these courses.  
EOD for Yellow and Light Green non-competitive courses. Registration will be open from 10.00 and will close at 12.00. Yellow maps will be issued at Registration. Seniors £6, Juniors/Students £3. SI card hire 50p; £30 for lost SI cards.
- Start times** From 10:30 to 12:30.
- Start** The Start is 1km from the Village Hall. The route is mainly on level public roads which may be busy, please take care. The last part of the route is through the grounds of a scout hut; please follow the taped route up the climb to the start area. Toilets are available in the hut – follow signs. Allow 5 minutes to reach the start if using these toilets.  
There will be a 4 minute call up for competition courses. You will start on your allocated time but you must also punch the start box.
- Map** 1:10000 with 5 m contours printed on waterproof paper. Partial update February 2016.  
Part 2 of the Brown and Short Brown courses will be printed on the reverse of Part 1. Control descriptions will be printed on the front of the map – written for yellow courses and I O F pictorial for the others. Loose description sheets will be available in the Start lanes.
- Controls** Control boxes will be mounted horizontally and attached to a stake.
- Finish** Follow tapes to exit the area by Bickerton Church. Keep left to rejoin the marked route to the Village Hall.  
Maps will not be collected but in the spirit of the competition please do not show your map to team members before they run.  
Courses close at 15.00. Please ensure you download in the Village Hall.
- Other users** The area is popular with walkers, dog walkers and occasional horse riders.
- Dogs** Dogs must be kept under control in the Car Park and at the start. There are no restrictions within the area but be aware that there are wild ponies on the Hill.

## Terrain

Bickerton Hill is a National Trust property lying at the southern end of the central Cheshire sandstone ridge. At the centre of the area is Larkton Hill (212m) with the remains of an Iron Age fort at its summit. It is separated from the lesser heights of Cuckoo Rock to the west and Kitty Stone to the north-east. A sandstone escarpment runs through the area presenting a steep slope on the west side topped by crags, some up to 10m high. In the past most of the area was covered by birch woodland. In recent years much of the birch has been thinned on the gentler eastern slopes as part of the NT programme to encourage heather growth and allow the area to revert to a "lowland heath" habitat. The area is popular with walkers and there is a complex path network. The Sandstone Trail runs through the area. Pockets of small scale quarrying in the 19<sup>th</sup> century have left some detailed contour areas. These, together with small pits, created when the area was used for military training, have provided locations for a number of the control sites.

Two sections of grazing land lie in the middle of the area. These are fenced and are out of bounds. Most of the bracken which pervades the area during the summer has either died back or been trampled but there are some localised thicker patches which may impede progress, particularly on the steeper southern and western slopes. There are also some localised patches of brambles which, being more resilient, are indicated by the vertical green hatching. Holly has formed thick clumps at a couple of locations where it is represented by dark green. Elsewhere some of the more significant individual holly trees have been marked by a green cross but there are many more which haven't.

## Safety

Competitors take part at their own risk. Whistles are **compulsory** and cagoules may be; look for notices in the car park. Lone competitors should leave their car keys at Enquiries.

There are a number of steep crags on the west side of the escarpment, some of which are close to the main path. Please exercise caution. No attempt should be made to scale or descend these crags. Longer courses do cross the escarpment but are directed to areas where it is safe to do so.

If lost, make your way to a high point on the ridge and then follow the Sandstone Trail markers in a north-easterly direction towards Bickerton Church.

First Aid equipment will be located at the Finish & Registration, where there will be first aid qualified helpers. Any incident in the competition area should be reported to the Finish, preferably with the code of the nearest control.

Nearest A & E depts:                    Leighton Hospital, Crewe CW1 4QJ 01270 255141  
(both approx 14 miles)    Countess of Chester Hospital CH2 1UL 01244 365000

## Officials

Organiser:            Barry Barnes (DEE)  
Planner:              Andy Payne (DEE)  
Controller:           Eddie Speak (MDOC)

## Thanks to

the National Trust for use of the area and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sandstone Scout Group for their assistance.

### Course details

Course	Length (km)	Climb (m)	Controls
Brown	8.4	320	26
Short Brown	7.0	290	23
Blue Men	6.2	210	24
Blue Women	6.0	200	23
Green Men	4.8	180	18
Green Women	4.8	165	20
Junior Men (Green)	4.9	190	18
Junior Women (Short Green)	4.3	130	14
Veterans Short Green	3.7	125	15
Light Green	3.6	110	14
Orange	2.8	95	9
Yellow	1.8	60	9

# EVENT CENTRE

