

20th January 2015

Border Liners 2015 season got underway last Saturday with a club event at Fingland Rigg near Kirkbride.

Runners competing in the belief that the woodlands would be open and bare during the winter months were sadly disappointed. Despite the terrain being generally flat, the organiser had cleverly placed many of the controls in dips and hollows and behind evergreen trees and shrubs throughout the woods. In addition, careful map reading was required to navigate the best route through the fenced and gated areas close to the start.

Ian Cumpstey of the Jesus Orienteering Klub (JOK) was quickest around the 4.1km Green Course with a time of 31.27, followed by Stuart Parker of the South Lakes Warrior Club (WAROC). Their times were 31.27 and 35.03 respectively. Christine Goulding was the first Border Liner home with an excellent 38.44. Around the 2.2km Orange course, young Border Liner Ewan Simpson was far and away the quickest runner with a superb time of 17.06. Carol Graham of the Solway club took the runner-up position in 36.16, just a few seconds clear of third places Naomi Hewitt (36.36). Getting the best value for their entry fees meanwhile were Dylan Rhodes and Marcus Chappell who spent almost an hour in the woods around the 1.3km White course and were then separated by just two seconds at the finish. No doubt these two will want to continue their rivalry at the next club event!

2015 is looking good for Border Liners. An influx of new competitors and the possibility of top results in the Compass Sport Trophy should be the incentive for orienteers young and old to pull out their running shoes and get training. The next Border Liners event is at Binsey and Whittas Park on Sunday 22nd February, and anyone looking for further information on other local fixtures or the sport of orienteering in general should visit the Border Liners website at www.bl-orienteering.org.uk!

David Rawle

23rd February 2015

Youthful exuberance overcame years of experience last Sunday as Cumbrian teenagers took top honours in every class of the Border Liners promoted Galoppen event at Binsey Fell and Whittas Park, near Bassenthwaite.

Without taking anything away from the County's fantastic young orienteers however, special mention must go to the other stars of the day - the club officials and helpers who made the event happen like clockwork in difficult weather conditions. Running in sleety rain isn't the greatest experience, but neither is manning the start point on a windswept hillside or collecting controls when everyone has gone home and sometimes the hard work of volunteers helping to run the sport needs to be in the headlines.

Taking in the hilly terrain of Whittas Park and then heading onto the wide-open flanks of Binsey Fell, the 8.8km Brown course was a fair test of endurance and navigation skills, but in the end only 26 seconds separated the top two competitors after more than an hour of hard running. M16 racer Alistair Thomas of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club just got the nod ahead of Duncan Archer (M35) of the Cleveland Orienteering Klub at the finish. Their times were 61.22 and 61.49 respectively. Alan Hartley and Karen Parker were Border Liners' top finishers in 13th and 14th positions. Daniel Spencer, another talented WCOC M16 teenager, took top honours around the slightly shorter (6.9km) Blue course with a finishing time just over three minutes clear of runner-up Helen Ockenden of the South Ribble Club (55.07 & 58.30 respectively). Completing the M16 sweep, Harry Scott of the Lakeland Orienteering Club came home first on the 4.6km Green course with a time of 42.16. John Noblet of WCOC took to the second step of the podium after 44.03 of hard running and Border Liner Andy Lewsley completed the top three with a time of 49.22.

Francis Smith-Ward an M14 runner from the Lakeland Club took first place on the 3.3km Short Green course whilst a similar aged teen, Louis Morris of the West Cumberland Club, took top honours around the 3.5km Light Green circuit. Another young Lakeland runner Merryn Stangroom was quickest around the Orange course with Border Liner Tom Rawle enjoying his first experience of running with older competitors in this higher category. It was in the 2.5km Yellow course event that Border Liners had their biggest success of the day as M10 Sam Hunt swept the board by just over two minutes ahead of West Cumberland youngster Wilfrid Teasdale. Their times were 21.37 and 23.40 respectively.

David Rawle

22nd March 2015

For the second year in succession Border Liners made it through to the finals of the nationwide Compass Sport Trophy competition.

Qualification was assured last Sunday in the regional heats which this year were hosted by the West Cumberland Orienteering Club on the challenging High and Low Rigg terrain near Threlkeld. Out of the hundreds of participants taking part in the respective Compass Sport 'Cup' (for larger clubs) and the Compass Sport 'Trophy' (for smaller clubs) the Liners surpassed themselves with four class wins and a turnout in all the categories which ensured that points were scored right across the board. The final points tally saw the South Ribble Orienteering Club take the overall win with 1286 points followed by Border Liners on 1274 points, Pendle Forest Orienteers on 1254 and SOLWAY on 1246. The top two clubs go through to the final in October.

Individually, there were some excellent local results. With the Brown course (8.4km/480m climbing) dominated by elite class runners the first Border Liners successes came on the Short Brown circuit (6.9km/395m) where Paul Gaines and Alan Hartley took 5th (57.26) and 6th (59.10) places respectively. The pair were less than ten minutes behind the winner Simon Hunter of the WCOC Club. Around the Blue courses, Debbie Thompson made it into the top ten in the women's competition whilst Dan Parker was the first of the Liners onto the podium in the men's race with a superb second place behind Michael Billinghamurst. On the Green courses Stella Lewsley showed all the others a clean pair of heels around the women's course taking victory by just less than a minute from Dorothy Pelly of the Lakeland Club. Their times for the 3.8km (240m climbing) course were 36.25 and 37.24 respectively. Christine Goulding finished 7th (41.36). Paul Johnson crept into the top ten on the Green men's course and Border Liners had two further top ten places on the Short Green course (3.3km/210m) with Emily Brown taking an excellent fourth overall (30.20) and Jenny Wren 9th with 37.31.

This weekend, Border Liners host one of the season-long Galoppen competition events on Askham Fell just south of Penrith. A comprehensive range of courses to suit all ages and abilities will be available and further details can be found on the Border Liners web site:

And to round off with some words from Andy Lewsley...

A great day at High Rigg for BL. 40 Liners turned out to help the club qualify for the final of the Compass Sport Trophy at High Rigg. On a cold but dry day the club laid to rest the ghosts of many previous failings with some outstanding performances. We had 4 class winners, Paul Gaines, Dan Parker, Stella Lewsley and Jenny Wren; Stella actually won her course outright, not bad considering she was running up a course. There were many other strong performances from experienced members and some very promising runs from newer and less experienced club members. Well done everybody.

The Final will be held in October on Helsington Burrows (known locally as the Scar). Again open fell, Limestone this time, with another big turn out the club could do very well. SROC who just beat us into second place at High Rigg will probably start as favourites in the final. Keep training folks we might even win!!

David Rawle

31st March 2015

Despite being essentially a solo sport there was a definite team bias for getting lost amongst some Border Liners at Sunday's Galoppen event at Askham Fell near Penrith.

Not that the course planner could take any blame for this shared disorientation. On the contrary, Isabel Berry's first attempt at planning a larger event produced some excellent courses around the low fells at the foot of the High Street range. The consensus of opinion amongst the team after the event was that, sometimes, minor inconveniences like getting lost just happen!

Around the 9km (210m climbing) Brown course, Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club was fastest on the day with a time of 46.52. Steve was almost three minutes clear of runner-up Ed Nash of the SVTN Club (49.26) whilst Dan and Karen Paker of the host (BL) club made it into the top ten with times of 59.40 and 64.08 respectively. Roxburgh Reiver John Tullie was easily the quickest runner around the 7.1km (165m) Blue course. His time of 42.31 was more than five minutes ahead of Michael Billingham of the West Cumberland Club (47.46).

Teenager Noah Howlett of the Lakeland Orienteering Club took top honours on the 4.7km(80m) Green course, just a couple of minutes ahead of Alistair Thomas, one of West Cumberland's rising orienteering stars. Their times were 27.44 and 29.41 respectively. Andy and Stella Lewsley were fourth (35.27) and fifth (35.38) respectively around the Green course with BL team mate Simon Hunt eighth (37.52). Border Liners runner of the day however was Jane Yates, whose 35.13 time around the Short Green 3.3km(60m) course was good enough for third place on the podium behind class winner Jan Clenaghan (34.37) of the Solway Orienteers.

On the Orange 2.7km (65m) and Yellow 2.4km (35m) courses, Border Liners had further top ten places with M12 competitor Robin Regan finishing in fifth place (22.41) behind winner Louis Morris (18.45) of the WCOC on Orange and fellow M12 runner Tom Rawle finishing seventh (19.49) behind Merryn Stangroom (15.42) of the Lakeland Club on Yellow.

This weekend, one of the world's biggest annual orienteering festivals takes place on our doorstep in the Lake District. More than 2000 runners will compete in this year's JK Festival with Border Liners helping to run the starts on day three of the event at Bigland near Newby Bridge. Full results from the Askham event and details of future local orienteering fixtures can be found on our website.

David Rawle

13th April 2015

From a field of thousands, Border Liners had two outstanding individual successes and a team medal at the JK Festival of orienteering over the Easter weekend.

The annual four-day festival, which draws orienteers from across the world, was held in the South Lakes area of Cumbria this year and comprised a sprint event around the campus of Lancaster University, two days of individual competitions at Ulpha Park and Bigland and a team relay event at Graythwaite. The Border Liner gold medallists were Stella Lewsley and Chris Lates whose W60 and M75 class wins were both several minutes clear of their competitors after the two days of individual competition. Not in the medals but performing well against strong international runners, Emily Brown finished in a very creditable 19th position in the hard-fought W16 class, with no fewer than six continental racers in the results above her. Finally, on the last day of competition, the Border Liners Ultra Veteran Team of Jenny Wren, Chris Lates and Andy Lewsley took an excellent Silver medal after a hard day of competition.

Mark Hill at Rockcliffe near Dalbeattie was the venue for the third round of the Scottish Orienteering League on Sunday and it proved a fitting challenge even for the hardest competitors. With last week's benign early spring weather breaking spectacularly shortly before Sunday breakfast time, the most sensible competitors were probably those who stayed at home, enjoyed extra toast and put their feet up. The rest of us spent the morning navigating through soaking-wet primeval (with a few spruce trees thrown in for good measure) woodlands, where a billhook or hand-axe would have been just as useful as a compass. Not that the top competitors appeared phased by the terrain despite the fact it was last used competitively many years ago. Now, with an updated map and enough tree-types to host an arboricultural convention, the Mark Hill courses were a proper test of ability throughout the field.

Of the Border Liners in action Stella Lewsley was again highest placed, finishing 6th overall around the Light Blue (5.3km/145m climbing) course with a time of 76.57, which was less than ten minutes behind class winner Helena Nolan of the Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club. Christine Goulding was another Border Liner top-twenty finisher at Mark Hill with a time of 91.09 around the tough 5.7km (205m climbing) Blue course. The class winner was teenager Tom Lines of the Argyll based Lock Eck club, who was clearly at home amongst the rough terrain and trees with a finishing time of 59.52.

See photos from the JK, and more, on [flickr](#)

David Rawle

27th April 2015

Border Liners can now boast a British Champion amongst their ranks. Stella Lewsley, the Club Chair and leading W60 competitor claimed the top honour in her class at the recent British Orienteering Championships at the Forest of Dean. Stella's 60.32 time around the 5.8km (215m climbing) course was more than four minutes clear of her nearest rival; Sarah Brown of the South London Orienteering Club. Two other accomplished Border Liners took top ten places in the weekend of competition. Judy Johnson claimed fifth place in the same category as Stella whilst Chris Lates claimed a well-earned 8th place in the M75 category.

The Liners held one of their popular club events at Hallin Fell on the side of Ullswater last weekend. Although the benign spring weather of the week before had broken by Saturday morning, a good turnout of orienteers nonetheless enjoyed a variety of courses on the open fellsides. As usual, the organisers laid-on a technical Green course for more seasoned competitors and James Daplyn put the training of recent longer events to good use with a first place result ahead of the Parker duo of Karen and Dan. Their times around the 3.6km (225m climbing) course were 32.56, 34.27 and 35.07 respectively.

Rachel Osborn of the Warrior Orienteering Club took first place around the 2.6km (165m climbing) Short Green course with a time of 36.37, but Border Liner Jane Yates demonstrated her quickly improving form with an excellent second place, exactly five minutes behind Rachel, and in turn was a little more than five minutes clear of third-placed Jan Clanaghan of the SOLWAY Club. Newcomer James Weir showed more than just beginners luck to take top spot on the 1.9km (125 m climbing) Orange course with a time of 35.04, whilst Hannah Garvey continued her improvement through the categories with a great second place in a time of 40.17. Finally, one of the most delighted competitors of the day was M8 youngster Lewis Yates who took the gold medal around the 1.5km White course with a time of 20.57, just a few minutes clear of James Weir's sister Rosalind who was second.

David Rawle

19th May 2015

Almost sixty runners took to the start for Border Liners latest 'Come on, Try It' event at Eycott Hill near Mungrisdale at the weekend.

This upland site, which is Cumbria Wildlife Trust's newest nature reserve, provides superb orienteering terrain for most levels of ability with a combination of open running to the North and trickier navigation challenges between the crags and undulations at the Southern end. Saturday's event offered two 'Green' colour coded courses at 4.8km and 3km respectively and an easier 'White' course over 1.4km. For the longer course, event organiser Raymond Wren ensured that runners had their fair share of climbing and descent over the fells and it was Border Liner fast man Jeff Powell Davies who took top honours with a time of 36.08. Jeff's time was approaching three minutes clear of runner-up Matthew Lyle of the Jesus Orienteering Klubb (ex-students of Oxford University), who in turn was a little over a minute ahead of third placed Alan Hartley of the Border Liners.

Around the Short Green course, Stella Lewsley put her recent good form to use with a sub half-hour time of 28.41 which was almost ten-minutes clear of runner-up Catherine Wetherfield of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club. Other Border Liners putting in good results around this course were Jane Yates (44.19), Robin Stansfield (45.02) and Alison Rawle (51.36) who all achieved the Colour Standard. On the White course, the top three finishers were all Border Liners, with Gemma O'Dowd taking top spot in 15.19, Tom Rawle runner-up with 17.42, and Hannah Garvey taking the bronze medal with 23.24. Well done to all of you and to all the other juniors who took part at Eycott.

Border Liners next events are a club training evening at Penrith Castle Park on Monday 15th June followed by an open Urban Event, again around Penrith, on Sunday 21st June.

Anyone wishing to give road bicycle orienteering a try in the meantime should take a look at the Allerdale Challenge series of events which are running on a fortnightly basis in Allerdale through to mid July. Details of this series are available at www.bmbo.org.uk

David Rawle

2nd June 2015

Place Fell and Angle Tarn Pikes overlooking Ullswater were the venues for a full weekend of orienteering promoted by the Manchester and District Orienteering Club.

Their 'Twin Peaks' event pulled in competitors from all over the country keen to test themselves on some proper mountainous orienteering terrain. Border Liners were well represented over the weekend with runners in many of the age class competitions and over most of the colour coded courses. Thankfully the weather stayed reasonably kind too, with only the early starters on Sunday morning taking the blast of wind and rain that has characterised spring and early summer so far.

On the colour courses Jeff Powell Davies was Border Liner's top finisher on Brown with a combined weekend time of 147.49, less than four minutes behind Peter Tryner of the South Yorkshire Orienteers. Jeff's time also brought him second place overall in the M35 Class. Andy Lewsley finished third overall on the Blue 2/M60 events, again just a few minutes behind overall winner Steve Ingleby of the DEE Orienteers. Their times were 112.53 and 108.18 respectively. Judy Johnson proved herself a class winner in the hard-fought W60 category over the weekend with a combined time of 96.10. Karen Blackburn also made it to the top ten with 124.26. Judy's time was also good enough for an excellent 6th place overall on the Green course. Finally, one of Border Liners youngest competitors, Maria Gaines, took home top honours and made it a clean sweep of W10 and White course prizes with a combined weekend running time of 58.58

Border Liners next event is a club evening around the Castle Park in Penrith on Monday 15th June, followed by what promises to be an excellent Urban event, again in Penrith, on Sunday 21st June.

David Rawle

22nd June 2015

Runners not familiar with the yards, alleys and cul-de-sacs of Penrith would have been more knowledgeable of them on Sunday evening if they had taken part in Border Liners excellent urban orienteering event out of Ullswater School. Penrith resident and course planner Gerry Garvey prepared six courses with a crow-flying distance of between 2.2km and 6.7km taking competitors from the top of Middlegate to the bottom of Bridge Lane and almost everywhere in between!

Yorkshire raider Leon Foster of the AIRE Club claimed top honours on the 6.7km Brown course with a time of 41.30, almost four minutes clear of runner-up Simon Gardner of CLYDE (45.15). Alan Hartley was Border Liners top finisher in third place with 53.43. Another Yorkshire runner, Rowan Capper of the EBOR Club, was fastest around the 4.6km Blue course, followed by M16 competitor Daniel Spencer of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club (WCOC). Their times were 27.53 and 30.22 respectively. Mark Hawker was Border Liners top finisher in tenth place with a time of 35.08.

Septuagenarian Michael Pearson showed everyone else a clean pair of heels on the 4.2km Green course with an excellent time of 31.09. The WCOC runner was almost a minute and-a-half clear of club mate Niamh Hunter (32.31) with another West Cumbrian, Ian Teasdale, third with 32.36. Around the Short Green course, Kirstin Maxwell of the Roxburghe Reivers certainly put all her competitors to the sword with a class-winning run more than ten minutes clear of her nearest rival. Richard Moss was Border Liners top competitor in this class with a time of 34.56. With more WCOC runners taking top honours on the 3.4km Light Green (Rosie Spencer 28.05) and the 2.2km Yellow (Wilfrid Teasdale 24.16) courses it was left to Border Liners junior Tom Rawle to take the runner-up spot on the Yellow course with a time of 32.05.

Border Liners return to more usual rural surroundings with a 'Come On Try It' event around Talkin Tarn on 18th July with preparation already underway for a Level B event on Faulds Brown near Caldbeck on 6th September. As usual, none of these events can take place without the support of volunteers and any offers to help with the September event in particular will be gratefully received. More details about these events and orienteering in general can be found on the club website.

David Rawle

29th June 2015

Successfully maintaining her record of schoolgirl titles, Emily Brown made it seven years on the trot in the Cumbria Schools Orienteering Championships at a sunny Haverigg Dunes near Millom at the weekend. Representing Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith, Emily took the Year 11 win by more than 15 minutes ahead of her nearest rival.

And she wasn't the only local competitor to come up trumps around the sandy courses. Border Liner racer and Hayton School pupil Laura Hazlehurst took the Year 6 Girls title by more than three minutes with club mate Ewan Simpson, representing William Howard School, making his mark on the Year 7 Boys results. In total 140 children ran in the Championships which came at the end of a busy time for regional junior orienteering with a very successful competition being held at the Cumbrian School Games earlier in June.

On Sunday, Long Course orienteering returned to the area as the West Cumberland Orienteering Club promoted the 'Allerdale Chase' on the fells to the North West of Ullswater. With lashing rain greeting early competitors, the weather picked up by early afternoon, which for some, was just in time to hang out their wet running kit to dry after the finish! Lancastrian visitor Joe Mercer of the SELOC club showed all his rivals a clean pair of heels on the tough 18km Long Course. His outstanding time of 118.03 was more than twenty minutes clear of West Cumberland fast-man Lewis Taylor (139.27) with the 18km straight-line distance and approximately 750 metres of climbing under his belt in less than two hours. Fellow WCOC runner Chris Hope took bronze medal in the Long Course category (145.15) with Border Liner Dan Parker finishing a creditable 6th overall (154.58) and wife Karen coming home as first lady in an excellent 178.41.

Around the 13.4km Medium Course, promising Lakeland Orienteering Club competitor Noah Howlett took top honours ahead of family finishers Kim and Richard Baxter of the South Yorkshire Orienteers. Their times were 119.39, 121.02 and 126.46 respectively. Christine Goulding was top Border Liner on this course with an excellent twelfth overall and a time of 147.20. At 8km, the Short Course showcased Cumbria's up-and-coming talent with M16 racer Daniel Spencer of the West Cumberland Club taking first place (56.25) ahead of South Ribble runner Rebecca Rooke (71.11/1st Lady) and M16 WCOC team mate Ben Breeze taking third with 78.20. Debbie Thompson was Border Liner's top finisher in 84.30. Finally, Catherine Wetherfield took top spot on the 4.4km Very Short Course (56.32) with Border Liner Richard Moss coming home second with 64.12.

David Rawle

20th July 2015

Taking five straight wins in five events, Richard Wren was unstoppable in the 2015 Allerdale Bike Challenge.

The annual Challenge is a bike orienteering series which uses a 'score' format of events where competitors are presented at the start with a base Ordnance Survey map containing 25 marked control points and have a set time of two hours to visit as many of these controls as possible using a route of their choice. Penalty points are applied for riders returning beyond the two-hour cutoff. The fortnightly series began in Cockermouth before continuing with events around Keswick, Mawbray, St Bees and Uldale. For his rivals, the writing was on the wall after the Cockermouth event this year when Richard clocked three extra controls to his class competitors after two hours of hard riding. His domination continued through to the final event at Uldale last week where David Rawle and Alan Hartley battled out the minor places with David taking second overall in the series by a single point. Kate Charles rode three outstanding events to take victory in the women's category ahead of Fiona Wright with Duncan Stuart and Roger Jackson taking the M50 and M60 awards and Barbara Nelson and Sue Edlington taking the W50 and W60 prizes. Tony and Angela Brand Barker organised another great Challenge in 2015 and promise to repeat the series again in 2016. The full results can be found at www.bmbo.org.uk

Border Liners promoted the latest in their series of 'Come on Try It' events last Saturday with racing around the ever-popular Talkin Tarn. More than sixty competitors signed-on to tackle one of two courses on offer; a 2.5km 'Orange' circuit of the Tarn or a slightly longer, more technical, 4.1km 'Green' circuit. Returning from injury, James Daplyn scorched through the rough terrain around the outskirts of the Tarn to take victory by more than three minutes ahead of runner-up Paul Gaines. Their times were 29.13 and 32.37 respectively. Howard Leslie was the first of the West Cumberland runners on the score sheet in fifth place (36.15) and there were other good runs from Jenny Wren, Debbie Thompson, Chris Lates and Richard Evans who all made the top fifteen. Around the Orange course, West Cumberland youngster Wilfrid Teasdale took top honours ahead of James Bell and Border Liner Laura Hazelhurst. Their times were 21.50, 24.21 and 25.34 respectively.

In a fortnight's time, a number of Border Liners will be competing in the World Orienteering Championships in the North East Highlands of Scotland. More than 5,000 competitors will take to the start during the week of competition and we wish all our local athletes every success in this major competition.

David Rawle

7th September 2015

Back in action after the summer holidays, Border Liners booked extra sunshine for one of their biggest events of the year on Sunday. With perfect views across the Solway and the Lake District, the Level B event at Faulds Brow near Caldbeck attracted competitors from all over the North of England and beyond to run over some of the best moorland terrain in the area.

Matthew Rooke of the Lakeland Orienteering Club (LOC) held off the challenge of West Cumberland orienteer Simon Hunter (WCOC) in the blue riband Brown course event, raced over 8.4km with 200m of climbing. Their times were 51.59 and 55.24 respectively, with Jeff Powell Davies of the host club taking an excellent third place with 57.53. Daniel Spencer (WCOC) and Noah Howlett (LOC) took first and second places respectively on the 7.4km (205m climbing) Blue course with times of 45.52 and 46.47. Dan Parker lead home a trio of Border Liners inside the top ten with a time of 54.14, followed by Andy Lewsley in seventh place (61.57) and Karen Parker eighth (62.03).

As well as taking her age-related top prize, Border Liner Emily Brown was also the top local athlete on the colour courses on Sunday with an excellent second place around the 4.7km (125m climbing) Green course. Her time of 41.49 was just over a minute behind the more experienced Heather Heppenstal of LOC who took first prize with a time of 40.37. South Ribble runner Sophie Roberts was too quick for fellow travelling athlete Ann Marie Duckworth of the Derbyshire based Derwent Valley Orienteers around the 2.9km (75m climbing) Short Green course. Their times were 36.38 and 37.17 respectively, and there were good runs from three local athletes to give Border Liners a good representation in the top ten with Penny Clay (42.39) seventh, Robin Stansfield (45.38) eighth and Andrew Suddaby (46.24) ninth.

Just outside the top ten on the Green course, but taking an excellent class win in the W60 category, Stella Lewsley returned to home turf after a successful tour of some prestigious European events during the summer. All seemed lost for the Brampton athlete back in spring when an injured hip threatened to scupper her 2015 season. But some good results towards the end of the Scottish Six Day event offered a glimmer of hope and this was followed spectacularly with overall wins in the Kempen 3 day event in Belgium, the French 3 day event at Briancon and the 3-day North West Cup in Italy. Husband Andy had a string of top ten results in these competitions but admitted that the heat and altitude did not play to his strengths.

Border Liners next event is a club evening at Newton Rigg this Monday (14th Sept) followed by one of the ever-popular 'Come on Try It' events around the parks of Carlisle on 17th October.

David Rawle

20th October 2015

The country's premier orienteering clubs converged on a rocky hillside outside Kendal at the weekend in a showdown for two prestigious titles. The Compass Sport Cup, for large clubs, and the Compass Sport Trophy, for smaller clubs, are fought out each year in a series of qualifying events and grand final. Border Liners were one of eleven nationwide clubs to make the Trophy final this year after an excellent qualifying round near Keswick in the spring.

With ground conditions around the Helsington Burrows courses ideal for fast running, competitors had to watch their navigation very carefully to avoid losing contact with the map. After several hours hard competition it was event hosts South Ribble Orienteering Club who took home the Trophy with a score of 1329, just nine points ahead of runners-up, the Interloper Orienteering Club of Edinburgh. Midway through the afternoon Border Liners were toying with a podium position but in the end slipped to a still very respectable fifth overall with a score of 1207 behind the Clydeside Orienteers (1211 points) and the East Pennine Orienteering Club (1229 points).

Within the Liners squad there were some excellent individual performances. Scoring a perfect 100 points in her class, Jenny Wren was the club's highest scorer of the day with victory around the Veterans Short Green course run over 4km and 140 metres of climbing. Jenny's time of 37.09 was almost three minutes clear of runner-up Keith Henderson of the Wimborne Orienteers. Andy Lewsley brought home 99 points for the club as runner-up on the 4.7km Men's Green course with a time of 32.54, just over a minute behind winner James Crawford of the Guildford Orienteers. Christine Goulding, Dan Parker, Chris Lates, Stella Lewsley, Jeff Powell Davies, Karen Parker and Emily Brown all managed top ten places in their respective classes to bring Border Liners' tally to one of their best in many years but it also took some excellent performances from some of the other Liners to ensure that runners from other clubs were kept down the results board. In particular, Hannah Garvey did very well around her first Green Course whilst David Mainwaring, Jonathan Brown, Robin Stansfield and Richard Moss all had very good runs to keep Border Liners highly placed.

Border Liners next competitive event is another 'Come and Try It' fixture at High Stand Woods near Armathwaite on Saturday 14th November. In the meantime, any orienteer interested in the future of orienteering in North Cumbria should attend the Border Liners Annual General Meeting at the Stoneybeck Inn next Tuesday 27th October. A warm welcome is guaranteed.

David Rawle

24th November 2015

The West Cumberland Orienteering Club promoted the final round of the 2015 Cumbria Galoppen League on Sunday with some tough courses in the Greta Gorge and Latrigg areas East of Keswick. Visiting runner Gordon Hale of the CLYDE club proved quickest around the 8.1km (350m climbing) Brown course which took competitors quickly out of the steeply wooded hillsides and onto the fells around Latrigg. His time of 83.12 was a little under two minutes clear of fellow visitor Francis Shillitoe of the NATO club. Dan Parker was top Border Liner on Brown with a time of 96.10 just 15 seconds clear of his wife Karen. On the 6.4km (320m) Blue course Harry Scott of the Lakeland Orienteering Club took top honours with a time of 69.08. Heather Roome of the South Ribble Club took second place in 72.36 with two excellent runs from Border Liners Andy Lewsley (79.37) and Emily Brown (80.01) to bag 8th and 9th places respectively. Ben Breeze of the host club took first place on the 4.7km/270m Green course. His time of 71.14 was almost two-and-a-half minutes clear of second placed John Robson of the Solway Club (73.53) with Border Liner David Rawle making a rare top ten finish with a time of 83.48. West Cumberland youngsters Joseph Sunley and Ben Goodwin took top spots on the 3.5km/190m Light Green course with times of 48.11 and 48.28 respectively whilst David Roome of the South Ribble Club was top runner on the 3.4km/150m Short Green course in 44.12.

High Stand Wood between Cotehill and Armathwaite was the venue for the latest of the Border Liners' club events last weekend. With four courses on offer around the mixed woodland terrain the majority of runners took up the challenge of the longest 4.3km Green Course. Local athlete Ian Cumpstey (JOK) was quickest around the circuit with a time of 38.40 ahead of Stuart Graham (SOLWAY) 41.59 and Stuart Parker (WAROC) 42.54. Border Liner Karen Parker was quickest of the host club runners with a time of 44.05. Neimh Willey and Henry Teasdale of the West Cumberland Club took top honours around the 3km Short Green course with times of 30.06 and 30.50 respectively whilst Henry's brother Wilfrid was quickest around the 2.1km Orange course with a time of 21.47.

Border Liners next fixtures are another 'Come and Try It' club event at Hackthorpe woods on Saturday 12th December followed by the ever-popular Christmas Club Night at Low Hesket Village Hall on Monday 14th December. Further details are available on the club website www.bl-orienteering.org.uk

David Rawle