

## 15th January 2018

Border Liners 2018 season got underway last Saturday with a well-attended club event at High Stand Woods near Armathwaite. Sixty-five orienteers took the starters orders but the real stars of the day were Phil and Janice Nichols who put out three excellent courses making the most of the tough terrain and then stood out in a thin wind to make sure everyone signed-on correctly and went home smiling.

On the ground, visiting orienteer Stuart Graham of the Solway Club was quickest around the 4.8km Green course in a time of 50.40. Border Liners' Karen Parker was second with 51.06 and after West Cumberland runner Howard Leslie's third place (58.36) came a trio of Border Liners ace women all within approximately two minutes of each other. New to Border Liners Carol Edwards was first home with 59.21, followed by Christine Goulding (59.42) and Stella Lewsley (61.35).

Around the 3.1km Short Green course, veteran runner Mike Pearson of the West Cumberland Club was quickest in 38.35. Tom Rawle and Laura Hazelhurst both had good runs to finish second and third respectively (65.06 & 72.13) whilst Rosalind Weir performed well to finish fourth in 85.42. Looking at the split times after the event it was clear that control 5 to 6 had caught many on the Short Green course so it was good to see the Border Liners teenagers in the top five.

Ewan Simpson took first place on the 2.3km Orange course in a time of 17.37 with Finn Mayhew second with 17.51. Both these teenagers have great potential as competitive orienteers and Border Liners would be delighted to see them join the club. In third place, M12 youngster Ruben Razzetti had a great run to finish behind the older lads with a time of 18.24, whilst Hannah Garvey and Maisie Yates orienteered well to make the top five with 21.50 and 22.52 respectively.

Border Liners next event is another club fixture at Fingland Rigg on 3rd February.

*David Rawle*

## 5th February 2018

Finglandrigg Woods Nature Reserve East of Carlisle was the setting for Border Liners latest club event at the weekend with nearly fifty runners enjoying three courses in the conservation woodlands. Ben Breeze of the neighbouring West Cumberland Orienteering Club was quickest on the day around the 4.1km Green course in a time of 27.30. Ben's older clubmate Jamie Rennie took second place just four seconds slower with Dan Parker of the host club claiming third place in 31.01. Raymond Wren had an excellent run to finish sixth (38.36) with Karen Parker ninth in 40.24.

Around the 3km Short Green course Border Liner youngster Ruben Razzetti, who continues to impress with his running and map reading skills, took first place with a time of 37.47. Suzanne Christie from the Solway Club, another of Border Liners neighbours, took second place in 38.01 with West Cumberland runner Helen Rennie third home in 40.21. Border Liner Dougal Kyle had a very good run to finish fifth with 43.10.

On the 1.8km Orange course West Cumberland youngster Daisy Rennie took top spot in a time of 13.25 with Ian Barker second (13.57) and Abigail Garvey of the host club continuing to record good results with a third place time of 17.02.

*David Rawle*

**12th March 2018**

Border Liners pulled off a massive result at the weekend to secure a place in the final of the prestigious Compass Sport Cup at Cannock Chase in October. The regional qualifying round at Beecraigs Country Park near Linlithgow on Sunday brought together thirteen clubs from across Scotland and the Borders with the prospect of only the top three making it to the final. Across fabulous mixed orienteering terrain, with pockets of melting snow adding to the challenge underfoot, the Border Liners team scored highly in almost every category and finished third overall on the day.

Starting with the 8km (330m climbing) Brown course, Jeff Powell Davies secured a solid fifth place behind eventual winner Oleg Chepelin of the Interlopers Club. From there, the high placed results ran on. Alan Hartley took a third place on the 7km (285m) Short Brown course with a time of 64.53. Karen Parker secured another fifth place on the 5.8km (215m) women's Blue course, whilst husband Dan took an excellent third place on the 5.9km (215m) men's Blue course. His time of 53.02 was only a handful of minutes behind eventual winner Dave Robertson of the CLYDE club (49.26)

Emily Brown took a superb second place (51.21) on the 4.7km (130m) women's Green course with Andy Lewsley (59.06) and Robin Thomas (59.52) making the top ten on the men's Green and Paul Williams also having a great run to finish 14th (71.28). On the veteran's Short Green course Jenny Wren finished in sixth place with a time of 45.24 and Zoe Graham finished fourth on the 3.2km Junior Women's course. Anchoring the team's qualifying result the youngsters running the Orange courses all performed superbly. Laura Hazelhurst secured the result of the day with a class-winning 30.58 around the 2.8km (75m) Orange women's course whilst Maisy Yates finished third in 36.50. Around the same course Tom Rawle and Ruben Razzetti both also secured top ten places to round out an excellent day for the Border Liners.

*David Rawle*

## 22nd April 2018

Border Liners competed on new ground recently with an excellent inaugural event at Knipe Moor near Shap. With Bampton Village Hall as the event headquarters, the new terrain took in the Open Access Land to the East of the River Lowther including the rocky outcrops of Knipe Scar. The event formed part of the season-long Cumbrian Galoppen League attracting well in excess of 150 competitors from the County and beyond.

On the 10.3km (335m climbing) Brown course, Harry Scott of the Lakeland Orienteering Club (LOC) was fastest with a time of 65.39. Richard Wren of the Warrior Club (WAROC) followed him home in 68.09 with third placed Simon Hunter of the West Cumberland Club (WCOC) a further eight minutes back in 76.23. Border Liner Ian Cumpstey was fourth with 79.56. David Bunn of the Teviot Valley Orienteering Club (TVOC) was quickest on the 6.8km (305m) Blue course in a time of 45.48 with David Spencer (WCOC) second in 50.42. Zoe Graham of the Border Liners had a good run to finish in 16th place (63.43) and also raised funds through a cake sale towards an upcoming trip abroad with the North West Junior Orienteering Squad.

Around the 4.7km (200m) Green course, visiting Scottish runner Paul Mather of the Mar Orienteering Club took top honours with 38.52. Ian Teasdale (WCOC) was second (42.16) and BL runner Richard Evans had a good top-half-of-the- results finish in 56.14. Isabel Berry was Border Liners top finisher of the day with a first place in the 3.9km (130m) Short Green event. She was pushed hard to the win however by Gemma Wren of the WAROC club, the pair of them finishing within twenty seconds of each other with times of 41.12 and 41.31 respectively.

Laura Hazelhurst and Maisy Yates both had top ten finishes for the Liners around the Light Green and Orange courses respectively whilst local schoolboy Isaac Dalton, who came along to the event with a friend to see what orienteering was all about, took first place on the 2.2km (45m) Yellow course event. We look forward to welcoming Isaac back to a future competition!

Border Liners next event is another of their popular 'Come on Try It' fixtures at Nunwick Hall near Great Salkeld on Saturday 12th May. This lovely, parkland-style terrain is ideal for anyone looking to give orienteering a go for the first time and, of course, and advance order for sunny weather is with the Met Office.

*David Rawle*

**14th May 2018**

Two contrasting events showcased the superb diversity of Cumbrian orienteering last weekend. Saturday's local fixture was one of Border Liners popular 'Come and Try it' events in the idyllic surroundings of Nunwick Hall near Great Salkeld. In perfect spring conditions, more than fifty orienteers enjoyed three excellent courses through the gardens, parkland and woods of the Hall. Jeff Powell Davies of the host club was quickest around the 4.9km Green course in a time of 36.01 whilst team mates Ian Cumpstey and Karen Parker made up the podium places with times of 36.49 and 37.37 respectively. Independent runner Charlotte Robinson took top position around the 3km Light Green course with Elizabeth Farthing taking second place (30.28) and Liners junior Maisy Yates third with 31.08. Young orienteers made up all the top places around the 1.7km Yellow course with Border Liner Robbie Farthing taking a convincing win ahead of West Cumberland runner George Rennie. Ewan Wallace of the host club was third. The times of the top three were 14.39, 19.07 and 19.27 respectively.

Sunday's race at Newton Fell near Grange over Sands was a counting event for the Cumbrian Galoppen League and also a qualifier for the Yvette Baker Trophy finals. Yvette Baker was one of Britain's most successful orienteers and the Trophy is a junior inter-club competition for English and Welsh clubs. On another day of perfect spring sunshine the hosts Lakeland Orienteering Club put on a series of courses that tested club orienteers to the limit. Starting benignly on open grassland, the courses quickly scaled the fell into a complex terrain of small crags, marshes, dried bracken, gorse and rough woodland. Pinpoint navigation rather than outright running speed was order of the day and yet the top competitors still made it look easy!

Rhys Findlay-Robinson of the South Staffordshire based Walton Chase Orienteering Club was quickest around the 7.6km (470m climbing) Brown course with a time of 65.31. Alan Hartley was quickest Border Liner home in a respectable 11th place (95.58). Liners newcomer Keith Tonkin took an excellent eighth place on the 5.3km (340m) Blue course just a few minutes behind winner Mark Simmonds (58.58). International junior competitor Alastair Thomas of the West Cumberland club took top placing on the 4km Green course with team mate Joe Sunley taking the runner-up spot. In the other Yvette Baker Trophy classes Ewan Simpson, Tom Rawle, Laura Hazelhurst, Ruben Razzetti and Hannah Garvey all put on a great display around the Light Green course, whilst Maisy Yates had a solid mid-field placing on the Orange course. Samuel Pullen, Lewis Yates and Robbie Farthing all did well and scored points on Yellow and the Liners left the event knowing that the whole junior team had done their best and had all contributed to the final result.

*David Rawle*

## 23rd July 2018

Two Border Liners enjoyed recent success in the World Masters Orienteering Championships in Denmark. Keith Tonkin and Christine Kiddier both picked up medals in their respective M60 and W65 categories with Keith collecting a silver and Christine a bronze in the Sprint event in Copenhagen. Later in the week, Christine also took home another bronze in the W65 Long Distance race. To have medal winners in a major competition like the World Masters is fantastic for local orienteering and the Border Liners.

Back on home soil, local orienteers swapped their spiked fell shoes for trainers for a weekend of urban events. Saturday's competition around the market town of Alston was the latest of Border Liners 'Come and Try It' events. Making the trip up to the North Pennines from Yorkshire, Leon Foster of the AIRE club was quickest around the 4.3km 'Long' course with West Cumberland runner Jamie Rennie second. Their times were 29.37 and 32.38 respectively. Jamie's West Cumberland team mate Roger Thomas took first place around the shorter 2.4km course with a time of 23.06 whilst Christine Kiddier brought her Danish form home with an excellent third place in 24.36.

On Sunday, a good contingent of Border Liners made the short journey south of Alston to the latest round of the UK Urban League at Barnard Castle. Based at the Bowes Museum the courses took runners around the picturesque market town in hot and sunny conditions. Aidan Rigby of the host club (Cleveland Orienteering Klub) took top honours around the Men's Open course with a time of 35.45. Border Liner Jeff Powell Davies took a fine fifth place (35.16) whilst in the Women's Open, Isabel Berry took an excellent bronze medal placing with a time of 47.36, just a few minutes behind the winner Tereza Maria Rush (40.27) who had travelled North with the Bristol Orienteering Klub. Again demonstrating the form which made them Masters medal winners, Keith Tonkin and Christine Kiddier took top placings in the Men's Super Veterans and Women's Ultra Veterans classes respectively.

Next week, Cumbria hosts one of the biggest events in the world orienteering calendar. The 'Lakes Five Day' will see competitors heading to Cumbria from around the globe with Border Liners promoting day four of the festival with an event on Askham Fell just South of Penrith. Further details of the Lakes Five Day can be found at [www.lakes5.org.uk](http://www.lakes5.org.uk)

*David Rawle*

## 13th August 2018

Almost two thousand competitors representing twenty four nations took part in the recent 'Lakes 5 Day' orienteering festival in Cumbria. Held every four years, the week-long event provides orienteers with fabulous venues and a variety of challenging terrain. The opening day proved especially challenging for some as the recent summer weather broke and gave hours of constant rain and low cloud on the fells above Grasmere. Nonetheless, there were some outstanding performances throughout the field and camaraderie amongst competitors to ensure that everyone got off the hills safely.

Day two took athletes to the East of the Helvellyn range and more steep fellside running around Angle Tarn in Patterdale. A complete change for day three saw runners taking to the woods of Whinlatter with the forest terrain providing shelter from the ever-present wind. A 'rest' day then gave athletes a chance to keep their legs turning with a non-competitive urban event in Ulverston. Border Liners hosted the fourth day of the festival and for the first time in the week the sun shone and the wind dropped. A spokesman for the club said: 'We've held some of our biggest events on wet days in recent years so this makes a nice change for the Liners.' With the terrain around Askham Fell near Penrith looking superb in the sunshine, orienteers were treated to some fine courses utilising the many bumps, dips and gorse bushes characterising this Northern part of the Lake District. The final event of the competition took place at Dale Park on the Graythwaite Estate in South Cumbria which has hosted many national competitions in the past.

Summarising the multiple class performances at the end of the week, Border Liners came away with some outstanding results. With the best three scores out of five to count for the final placings, the Liners took to the podium in several categories. For the juniors, Maria and Isabel Gaines took gold and silver medals in their respective W10B and W12B classes whilst Maisy Yates took another superb first place in W14B. In the senior categories Stella Lewsley took first place in the W60L class with Christine Kiddier and Keith Tonkin taking 2nd and 3rd places in the W65L and M60L.

Border Liners next event is a round of the Cumbria Galoppen League on Saturday 15th September at Swindale near Shap.

*David Rawle*

## 24th September 2018

Picking up her first significant senior orienteering award, Border Liner Isabel Berry took a well-earned silver medal in the Women's Open Class of the North West Sprint Championships at the Lancaster University campus at the weekend. Isabel's combined time of 35.31 for the two tricky sprint events secured second place behind overall winner Anna Harris of the Cheshire based Deeside club. Also bringing home medals to North Cumbria were Border Liners World Masters award winners Keith Tonkin and Christine Kiddier. Christine and Keith both took gold medals in their respective Ultravet and Supervet categories with winning times of 23.09 and 29.12.

Border Liners promoted a successful round of the Cumbrian Galoppen League recently on the fells to the West of Haweswater reservoir. Harry Scott of the Lakeland Orienteering Club took first place around the 9.7km (280m climbing) Brown course in a time of 66.58. Wainwright circuit record holder Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland club was second in 68.30 with Border Liner Jeff Powell-Davies taking a creditable fourth place in 86.06. Elsewhere in the results Robin Thomas took another fourth place for the Liners on the 4.5km (150m) Green course with a time of 46.38 whilst Janice Nichols secured a top ten place, with a time of 60.47, around the 3.2km (80m) Short Green course.

The following day, West Cumberland Orienteering Club organised the second fixture of the Cumbrian Galoppen Big Weekend with an event at High Brow above Dockray. Steve Birkinshaw took top honours around the 8.6km (230m) Brown course on this occasion with a time of 65.36. Border Liner Dan Parker took an excellent third place in 69.51. Dave Rawle secured a fourth place around the 4.4km (155m) Green course with a time of 45.01, just over three minutes behind winner Peter Hudd of the host club (41.28).

Border Liners also had success in the recent Lake District Mountain Trial, which started and finished in Grasmere and took in Fairfield and Silver Howe en route. Debbie Thompson was the first women's V60 to finish whilst Chris Lates was the 1st male V70 and Raymond Wren picked up the silver medal in the same category.

*David Rawle*

**23rd October 2018**

Flying high near the end of a busy season, Border Liners took a superb fourth place in the finals of the Compass Sport Trophy on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire at the weekend. The club qualified for the finals of the premier inter-club competition in the spring and took their place on the start line with fourteen other clubs from around Britain.

With a coach load of competitors, the Liners had runners in most categories of the event, several of whom had little experience of the sandy heathland and woods of the Chase. What they lacked in experience they made up for in determination however with great performances across the board. Liners Keith Tonkin and Karen Parker were class winners on their respective Green courses, with Keith finishing almost a minute-and-a-half clear of runner-up John Embrey of the DEE Club whilst Karen took the chequered flag a clear six minutes ahead of second placed Emma Harrison of the East Pennine Orienteering Club. Keith and Karen's times were 37.19 and 39.55 respectively. Also taking top ten places were Stella Lewsley and Christine Kiddier who finished close to within a minute of each other on the short Green veterans course in 6th and 7th places with times of 45.05 and 46.10 respectively.

With the club's top thirteen scores making up the Trophy total, the other Liners in the limelight were Dan Parker, Laura Hazelhurst, Andy Lewsley, Christine Goulding, Alan Hartley, Zoe Graham, Jeff Powell-Davies, Isabel Gaines and Paul Gaines. Bowing out on Sunday after at least ten years as the Liners Team Manager, Andy Lewsley succinctly summarized the efforts of all the club runners afterwards by saying that their attitude towards the competition and enthusiasm to build experience for future events was fantastic to see. Many thanks to Andy for his encouragement and club captain's role over the last decade!

The next Border Liners fixture is another of their popular 'Come and Try It' events at Miltonrigg Woods near Brampton on Saturday 17th November.

*David Rawle*

### 3rd December 2018

With the 2018 season drawing to a close, Border Liners are celebrating as the top ranking open orienteering club in Britain! For the Liners to reach this position in the Compass Sport Magazine grading is unprecedented for a North West Orienteering Association club and with neighbouring West Cumberland Orienteering Club (WCOC) also making the top five it reinforces the point that North Cumbria is currently a national hotbed of talented orienteers.

The final round of the Cumbrian Galoppen League took place at Leaps Beck, just North of Ennerdale recently. The WCOC promoted event featured their runners heavily in the results but Border Liners held their own with some excellent placings. Dan Parker finished fifth around the tough 8km Brown course just a few minutes behind Lakeland Orienteering Club winner Graham Patten (56.43) with WCOC's Simon Hunter second in 64.42. West Cumberland's David Spencer was top runner on the 6km Blue course with Andy Lewsley and Border Liners newcomer John Ferris-Worth both making the top fifteen in ninth and thirteenth places respectively. Natalie Hawkrigg continued to make great progress as an orienteer with a top fifteen finish around the 4.5km Green course whilst Chris Lates took an excellent second place around the 3km Short Green course and Ruben Razzetti claimed a superb winners medal on the Light Green course with a time of 22.54.

Border Liners penultimate club event of the year took place at Milton Rigg Woods near Brampton the previous weekend. The Woodland Trust owned site provided tough orienteering conditions as ever, but Border Liner Jeff Powell Davies made the 4.6km Green course his own with a near seven minute win ahead of Dan Parker. Their finishing times were 38.17 and 45.13 respectively. Emily Brown, taking a break from her studies, made a welcome return to local orienteering with a win around the 2.5km Short Green course ahead of NATO club visitor Benedict Sanderson.

The Liners' final competitive outing of 2018 takes place at Coombs Wood, Armathwaite this Saturday (8th Dec). Further details of this 'Come and Try It' event together with information about the club's Christmas Charity event at Binsey Fell on 29th December can be found on the club website

*David Rawle*