

## 11th February 2019

A large turnout of orienteers enjoyed excellent courses in the lower Gelt Woods near Brampton on Saturday 9th February. The Border Liners event was their second of the 2019 season and a perfect warm up for a full weekend of orienteering for some.

Bringing fitness with him from recent success in the Marmot Dark Mountains race, West Cumberland's Steve Birkinshaw was the standout winner around the 4.7km (165m climbing) Green course. Steve's time of 37.27 was more than ten minutes clear of runner-up, and team mate, Sam Stead (47.57). Karen Parker was Border Liners' top finisher in fourth place with 49.24, just 18 seconds ahead of husband Dan's 49.42. Emily Brown, home for the weekend from her University studies, took 9th place with 53.16, just ahead of Solway runner Zoe Graham (54.06).

Around the 3.7km (130m climbing) Short Green course, Natalie Hawkrigg continued to impress with a race-winning time of 41.22, just less than two minutes clear of South Ribble Orienteer Alex Matthew. Rosalind Weir was next Border Liner home in eighth place with a very respectable 57.32. The 3.1km (85m climbing) Orange course was won by W12 runner Hannah Birkinshaw with a host of youngsters and families making up the top ten places which was excellent to see.

Sunday's event at Hawse End on the shore of Derwentwater was promoted by the West Cumberland Orienteering Club and was the first round of the 2019 Cumbria Galoppen League. Just as in Saturday's event the terrain was all wooded with generally good running and well identifiable features. Steve Birkinshaw was once again the runner to beat around the 8.9km (250m climbing) Brown course. He was just over two minutes clear of second placed Graham Patten of the Warrior Orienteering Club. Keith Tonkin and Dan Parker were Border Liners' top finishers, both just inside the top twenty with times of 73.20 and 73.36 respectively.

Natalie Hawkrigg had another excellent result around the 4.6km (150m) Green course, with a fourth place and just under two minutes behind top-placed West Cumberland Orienteer Charlie Rennie. Their times were 43.13 and 45.02 respectively. Three of Border Liners youngsters now all running with the North West Junior Squad had great results on Sunday. Tom Rawle and Laura Hazelhurst both recorded Gold Standard times around the Green course whilst Ruben Razzetti scored a Gold Standard in the process of securing second place overall on the 3.6km (80m) Short Green course.

Border Liners next event is one of their bigger fixtures of the year as they host the Northern qualifying rounds of the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy. The action takes place on Bampton Common on Sunday 17th March and orienteers wishing to be part of the competitive club team should ensure they enter in advance.

*David Rawle*

## 18th March 2019

Many weeks of preparation came to fruition last Sunday when Border Liners hosted the regional qualifying rounds of the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy on Bampton Common just South of Penrith. With volunteers having set out the course controls on the fells in Saturday's dreadful weather, Sunday dawned bright and sunny and surprisingly dry under foot. Several hundred competitors from across the North of England and Southern Scotland took to the start in what proved to be a seamless event for the Liners.

Around the 9.8km (390m climbing) Brown course, Alasdair McLeod of the AIRE Orienteering Club was quickest in a time of 57.52, just a single second ahead of David Spence of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club. David's team mate Simon Hunter took top honours around the 8.2km (330m) Short Brown course in a time of 58.37 with Alan Hartley coming home as top Border Liner in 14th place.

Isabel Berry made the top ten on the 6.7km (175m) women's Blue course whilst Natalie Hawkrigg made full use of her fell running talents to produce a class-winning 38.12 time around the 4.7km (100m) women's Green course. Other Border Liners Christine Goulding and Stella Lewsley both made the top ten in fifth and sixth places with times of 42.00 and 42.21 respectively. Keith Tonkin (34.10), Andy Lewsley (39.33) and James Crawford (40.31) all made the top ten around the 4.8km (100m) Men's Green course whilst Laura Hazelhurst finished in an excellent 7th place on the 3.7km (90m) Short Green course and Ruben Razzetti was narrowly pipped to the gold medal on the 3.2km (80m) Orange course.

With the overall event split between larger clubs competing for qualification in the Compass Sport Cup and smaller clubs including Border Liners aiming at qualification for the Trophy, every runner played their part in the outcome. Karen Blackburn, Keith Tonkin, Natalie Hawkrigg and Ruben Razzetti were all class winners in the Trophy competition. Their success and that of other team mates ensured that, once again, Border Liners qualified for the final of this prestigious National competition which this year is being held in Sussex in October!

Border Liners next fixture is another of their popular 'Come and Try It' events at Aughertree near Uldale on Saturday 30th March

*David Rawle*

**29th April 2019**

Border Liners proudly flew their club flag at the Jan Kjellstrom (JK) orienteering festival over the Easter weekend and came home with a rucksac full of medals. The annual international event was held in Hampshire and Berkshire this year with four days of rigorous competition at Aldershot, Camberley, Farnborough and Newbury.

One of only two women to win all three of her individual races was Border Liner Stella Lewsley who then went on to take a further gold medal in the Liners relay team with Carol Edwards and Karen Parker. Contending for the overall JK Performance Trophy, the stellar Stella was pipped at the post to this award by a brilliant young junior from the Wessex Orienteering Club. Other top Liners performances at the JK came from Karen Parker (3rd W55L), Christine Kiddier (3rd W65L), Keith Tonkin (3rd M60L), Maria Gaines (3rd W12b), Paul Gaines (3rd M45S), Richard Moss (4th M75S) and Dick Whitworth (4th M80L). In the Sprint races, Christine Kiddier, Keith Tonkin and James Crawford all joined Stella in taking a top three result in their respective categories.

Last weekend, the West Cumberland Orienteering Club promoted the third round of the Cumbrian Galoppen League on the spectacular Muncaster Fell above Ravenglass. With clear views up to the highest Lakeland peaks, runners were treated to some superb open fellside terrain. There were two standout results for the Border Liners. Chris Lates' excellent fourth place around the 4.3km Green course was more than five minutes clear of the next competitor in his age category whilst Ruben Razzetti's course winning 34.29 around the 3.3km Light Green course was almost eight minutes clear of runner-up Cate Matthew.

Border Liners' next fixture is one of their 'Come and Try It' events at Hallin Fell on Saturday May 11th. This superb little area on the side of Ullswater is guaranteed to give competitors a real taste of Lake District orienteering and is ideal for newcomers and improving orienteers who want to try an event on a real mountain! Full details will be available shortly on the BL website.

*David Rawle*

**13th May 2019**

Orienteering Report Fresh from success at the Jan Kjellstrom (JK) orienteering festival, Border Liners made for Littondale in Yorkshire recently for the individual Long Distance British Orienteering Championships. The tough moorland courses took runners from the valley floor at Arncliffe to the high felltops and back through crags, limestone pavement and rough grassland. Holding her form from the JK, Border Liner Stella Lewsley took the biggest club victory of the day – a near eight-minute winning margin ahead of her nearest rival in the W65L class. Stella's 40.22 for the 4.9km course, which included 16 controls and nearly 600 feet of climbing, took her top of her field of thirty runners. Also taking the top of the podium in her class was Karen Parker whose 41.55 around the W55L course was quickest by a margin of 1.46 from Hazel Dean of the Forth Valley Orienteering Club. Other top Liners results on the day included Keith Tonkin who finished second on the M60L course, Dick Whitworth who was fourth in the M80 category and Karen Blackburn who was seventh around the W70L course. As is usual at these championships, the organisers provided a series of categorised shorter course and here again the Liners scored heavily with victories for Maria Gaines (W12), Natalie Hawkrigg (W45S), Paul Gaines (M45S) and Andrew Bell (M65S).

Last weekend Border Liners promoted one of their 'Come and Try It' events on Hallin Fell near Ullswater. These Level D fixtures are ideal for newcomers and Saturday's event, in lovely spring sunshine, proved a suitable challenge for novices and seasoned veterans alike. Quickest around the 4.4km (260m climbing) long course was the Wainwright round record holder Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Club. Steve's time of 39.10 was more than five minutes clear of his clubmate David Spencer. Making headway in his recovery from injury, Ian Cumpstey was the first Border Liner home in fifth place with a time of 51.17. Dave McQuillen of the Solway Orienteering Club took a superb first place around the 3.4km (150m climbing) Short course. Dave's time of 41.18 was more than five minutes clear of second placed Stuart Crawford of the West Cumberland Club.

*David Rawle*

**3rd June 2019**

The recent Scottish orienteering championships in Dalbeattie Woods proved a real test of fitness and navigation. After the recent open moorland of the British Championships in Yorkshire, competitors were reduced to hands and knees on occasions in Scotland, pushing through the coniferous forest to find the elusive controls. Pinpoint accuracy with the map and a wee bit of luck were the order of the day! Border Liners nonetheless came away with some excellent results despite many saying it was the toughest test they had faced in many years. Running down one class from the Elite M21 field, Alan Hartley put in a fine performance to take top place around the 8.1km M21L course in a time of 94.16. Jeff Powell Davies took third place on the M35L course with Paul Gaines taking top spot in the M45S competition and David Rawle third around the M50S. Isabel Gaines, Dan Parker, Phil Nichols, Andrew Bell and Dick Whitworth all took top honours in their respective W12B, M55S, M60S, M65S and M80 classes with Keith Tonkin taking third around the M60L course and Christine Goulding taking a well-earned fourth place on the W55L course.

The following day, four teams of battle-weary Liners headed North to Drumlanrig Castle for the Scottish Relay Championships. Thankfully the terrain proved slightly more forgiving than Dalbeattie and with all the Border Liner teams running in the same handicap class there was good camaraderie through the field. Run of the day came from Liners Junior Ruben Razzetti who helped the BL1 team including his mum Natalie and Christine Goulding to a bronze medal performance. In fourth place, just a few minutes behind the leading BL team, were Raymond and Jenny Wren and Keith Tonkin (BL3). Christine Kiddier, Laura Hazelhurst and Robin Thomas (BL2) took eighth place in the class ahead of Richard Evans, Karen Blackburn and Isabel Berry (BL5/14th) and Dick and Angela Whitworth and Chris Lates (BL4/23rd)

Next Saturday, 15th June, Border Liners promote one of their ever-popular 'Come and Try It' events as part of a weekend of urban orienteering. The event in Brampton on Saturday morning is the first of three weekend fixtures straddling Hadrian's Wall forming the North Country Triple. Full details of the Brampton event and the North Country Triple can be found on the Border Liners website

*David Rawle*

## 2nd September 2019

After the summer holiday break, Border Liners Orienteering Club were back in action at the weekend as organisers of the latest round of the Cumbrian Galoppen League at Askham Fell near Penrith. Seven courses provided challenging competition for nearly 190 orienteers across the open terrain of the low fells, where heather, bracken, boulders and water-filled pits provided ample opportunity for planners to conceal the controls.

Around the 8.4km (265m climbing) Brown course, visiting Scandinavian orienteer Vegand Blomseth Johnsen took top honours with a time of 46.27, just over three minutes clear of West Cumberland Orienteering Club runner Steve Birkinshaw (49.49). Keith Tonkin was Border Liners' top finisher in 15th place in 63.53. David Spencer of the West Cumberland Club was first home around the 6.6km (185m) Blue course with 44.39. Andy and Stella Lewsley were Border Liners' top finishers in 7th and 11th places respectively with times of 58.35 and 60.35. Wilfrid Teasdale (WCOC) was quickest around the 4.6km (110m) Green course in a time of 35.53, with Tom Rawle just breaking into the top ten for the Liners with a time of 45.58. Jane Yates had a good run around the 3.5km (80m) Short Green course to claim 7th overall just over ten minutes behind class winner Stuart Crawford. The Gaines sisters meanwhile both had competitive runs around the Light Green (3.1km/60m) and Orange (2.4km/45m) courses. Isabel took an excellent seventh place around the Orange course in a time of 44.27, whilst Maria took the silver medal position with a 23.07 around the Orange course.

Flying the Border Liners flag during the summer break, Christine Kiddier and Christine Goulding both returned to Cumbria with some outstanding results from major competitions. At the July World Masters Championships in Riga, Latvia, Christine Kiddier would have returned with a formal Gold medal had it not been for a technicality which resulted in a number of categories on the tight sprint course being declared void. The podium ceremony and flower presentation for her achievement was some consolation nonetheless.

Closer to home, Christine Goulding came away with first place in the W55 category after consecutive days of tough competition in the Scottish Six Days Championships which is the UK's largest orienteering competition held every two years in the Highlands of Scotland.

Anyone interested in giving orienteering a try and meeting some enthusiastic club members should come along to the Club Night in Rickerby Park, Carlisle, on Monday evening (9th September) where the club will be practicing compass and pacing techniques. Bring a compass, running shoes and head torch and meet at the Cenotaph car park at 7pm.

*David Rawle*

## 23rd September 2019

Three of Border Liners top orienteers returned to Cumbria with medals recently following success in the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships. Held around the 400 acre Loughborough University campus, the Sprint Championships were a real test of quick decision making and fast running. Christine Kiddier took the gold medal in the W65 Class after 13 minutes and 44 seconds of high-intensity sprint navigation. Her time was 24 seconds clear of runner-up Sarah Brown of the South London Wayfarers. Keith Tonkin and Carol Edwards both then took silver medals on the M60 and W60 courses. The following day, Keith and Christine were in action again in the British Middle Distance Championships at Chinley Churn in the Peak District. Keith came away with a second place in the M60 class and Christine took third in the W65's.

Locally, the Lakeland Orienteering Club promoted the latest round of the Cumbrian Galoppen League last Sunday on the challenging, grassy Birkett Common near Kirkby Stephen. West Cumberland Orienteering Club junior Charlie Rennie took victory around 8.7km (390m climbing) Brown course by a margin of just under a minute from runner-up and clubmate Steve Birkinshaw. Their times were 63.54 and 64.33 respectively. Border Liner Karen Parker was first woman home on the Brown course with a time of 88.45 which was good enough for eighth overall.

West Cumberland runner David Spencer was fastest around the 7.1km (325m) Blue course in a time of 59.02. Only John Ferris Worth made the top ten from the Border Liners with a nonetheless respectable time of 72.00. Around the hotly contested 4.6km (195m) Green course, Border Liner Tom Rawle took an excellent first place with a time more than six minutes clear of the field. Tom's 39.07 was 6.44 clear of runner-up Lynne Thomas of the West Cumberland Club with Liner Natalie Hawkrigg recovering very well from two early mistakes to take a solid fourth place.

Jenny Wren put in a top ten run to finish eighth around the 3.4km (175m) Short Green course whilst Ruben Razzetti pulled out another great result for the Border Liners Juniors to finish second on the 3.1km (165m) Light Green course. Ruben's time of 35.18 was just over two minutes shy of fellow North West Junior Squad competitor Dominic Wathey of the Manchester and District Orienteering Club. Rounding off an excellent day for the BL Juniors, Maria Gaines took victory on the 2.9km (120m) Orange course. Maria's time of 40.33 was comfortably clear of runner up George Rennie of the West Cumberland Club.

Border Liners next event is another of their popular Come On Try It fixtures on the picturesque Watermillock Common alongside Ullswater on Saturday 12th October.

*David Rawle*

**11th November 2019**

North Cumbrian orienteers were spoilt for choice in recent weeks with top-class events from both our local clubs. Promoting the penultimate Cumbria Galoppen League event of the season, Border Liners drew in excess of 200 runners to the mist-swept hillsides above Caldbeck once famed for their mineral production. With clear instructions to avoid all fenced mineworkings, orienteers scoured the fells around the seven colour courses on offer. Duncan Archer from Cleveland Orienteering Klub took top honours around the 8.5km (370m climbing) Brown course in a time of 53.37. Runner-up Graham Patten of the South Lakes 'Warrior' Club was a minute-and-a-half behind in 55.11 with Karen Parker being the first Border Liner home in a creditable 16th place. Finlay Johnson (South Ribble Orienteering Club) was first around the 6.6km (250m climbing) Blue course in 46.22 with most of the remaining top ten places filled with West Cumberland Club runners. Enjoying the shorter courses at present, Ian Cumpstey lead a trio of Border Liners home around the 4.4km (170m) Green course in a time of 35.14. Second place fell to Nick Howlett (Lakeland Orienteering Club – 36.39) with Owain Rice and Tom Rawle flying the BL flag in the next two positions with times of 39.17 and 39.24 respectively. Owain is a relative newcomer to this part of the country but is already proving a force to be reckoned with on the open fellside terrains. Underpinning Border Liners strength around the Green courses, Andrew Bell took top-spot around the 3km (95m) Short Green course (33.23) whilst Ruben Razzetti also took gold on the 4.2km (150m) Light Green course (35.31). Karen Blackburn had a great run for the Liners to finish fifth on Short Green just over six minutes behind her team-mate whilst Paul Watson also ran well for a twelfth place finish in 41.18. Finally, on the 2km (65m) Orange course, the Prince family of junior orienteers flew club colours to take second, fifth and sixth places respectively; excellent running from Robert 24.44, Jamie 27.42 and Stuart 29.46. Last Sunday, the West Cumberland Orienteering Club promoted the Copeland Chase on the fells above Ennerdale Bridge. Using the simple 'Score' format, orienteers chose to be out for a maximum of between one and four hours. With 28 controls to collect, only the longer score competitors had the possibility of taking the whole set with West Cumberland junior Joe Sunley probably having the run of the day to dib all 28 controls in 154 minutes and 16 seconds – almost 25 minutes inside his allotted three hour limit! For the Liners, Stella Lewsley made a welcome return after injury to take 5th place in the one-hour event with Debbie Thompson tenth in the two hour score and Karen Parker 13th in the four-hour event.

*David Rawle*

## 9th December 2019

With a gathering of past and present members fit for a golden anniversary dinner, Border Liners celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in style recently. The evening's entertainment included a lovely meal, memorabilia and maps from 'the early days' and a speech and toast from the first Chairman of the Club, Dave Gittus. Formed in November 1969, the pioneers of Border Liners organised their first event in May 1970 at Greystoke Forest using hand-drawn maps and pin-punch controls. To mark that first fixture, the club is planning more special events in 2020. See photos in our Flickr albums

Talkin Tarn was the venue at the weekend for the club's penultimate event of 2019. Organiser and planner Jane Yates produced three courses to test orienteers of all abilities. With the 3.2 km Green course cunningly missing all the paths around the Tarn, orienteers had the added challenge of using just the vegetation, contours and boundary features on the map for navigation. Nonetheless, M21 competitor Simon Gardner of the Clyde orienteering club scooted round in an impressive 18.32, just three seconds ahead of local Border Liner James Daplyn. James Chapman was just under a minute behind the leading duo (19.26) with Emma Stuart the first woman home in 25.43 and the Liner's Christine Goulding just a few seconds behind in 26.10.

With the advantage of paths marked on the map, the Light Green orienteers ran a similar course with the quickest time going to Howard Leslie of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club (26.24). Norman Jackman of Keswick took second place with a time of 28.23 with Border Liner junior Ewan Simpson third in 28.35. It was around the Yellow course however that competition was fiercest as the juniors had the added incentive of a team prize to aim for. Gil Burns of Lanercost School was quickest around the 1.6km course in a time of 10.34 followed by the Hayton School trio of Oliver Philips, Ryan Batey and Jack Batey in 12.20, 12.55 and 12.59 respectively. It was the Caldbeck Fellview School team of James Kenning, Jonty Razzetti, Steven Dickinson and Anna Kenning who took the team prize however with their full team of four filling the next places on the result sheet. Well done to all the youngsters who competed.

Border Liners final event of 2019 is their traditional festive fundraiser, which will be held at Whittas Park near Bothel on Saturday 28th December. Organiser Raymond Wren promises a fun event for all the family to get some holiday-time fresh air. Further details: [www.bl-orienteering.org.uk](http://www.bl-orienteering.org.uk)

*David Rawle*