

2nd March 2020

Border Liners juniors got their season off to a flying start at the weekend with a win at the Northern qualifying round of the Yvette Baker Cup. The Yvette Baker Cup and Trophy events are the premier inter club orienteering competitions for English and Welsh clubs and are named after Britain's first World Orienteering Champion who won Gold in the short distance event in Scotland in 1999. This year, the Northern qualifier was organised by neighbouring club Newcastle and Tyneside Orienteering (NATO) Club and held in the woods above Slaley Hall in Northumberland. Border Liners took a squad of experienced and enthusiastic youngsters to the event and came away with the win by a single point from the host club.

Flying the flag on the 4.7km (95m climbing) Green course, Tom Rawle and Laura Hazelhurst took first and third places respectively with Jonty Cope of NATO taking second. Repeating the sequence on the 3.8km (80m) Light Green course Ruben Razzetti and Isabel Gaines took Gold and Bronze for Border Liners with the host club's Benedict Sanderson taking silver. Around the Orange course (3.2km/55m) Maria Gaines took fourth place behind a trio of NATO youngsters topped by Rosannah Metcalfe. Finally, on the Yellow course (2.3km/45m), Oscar Sanderson of NATO took first place ahead of two promising new Border Liners Ryan and Jack Batey who were second and third respectively. With their win, Border Liners have qualified for the finals of the cup which are being held at Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire in July.

In the adult open races, Jonny Malley of the Manchester and District Orienteering Club took first place around the 6.2km (115m) Blue course with James Chapman of Border Liners taking a well-earned fifth place. Their times were 44.07 and 54.02 respectively. Andrew Bell finished in a satisfying seventh place for the Liners around the Green course with a time of 57.02. The Green course was won by Clare Baker of the Cleveland Orienteering Klub in a time of 45.16 and other Liners who completed the Green course were Chris Lates (63.35), Phil Nichols (75.28), Karen Blackburn (85.22) and Dick Whitworth (92.05). On the Short Green course, Janice Nicholls (52.44) and Jane Yates (54.31) both claimed top ten finishes in a race won by Andrea Udberg (44.14) of NATO.

Border Liners next fixture is the second of their popular 2020 'Come on Try It' events, which is being held on Saturday 7th March at Miltonrigg Woods near Brampton.

David Rawle

22nd March 2020

In the final weekend of competition before the current Corona virus restrictions were imposed, Border Liners took a strong squad of runners to the Compass Sport Trophy qualifying round at Breasty Haw and Bowkerstead woods near Satterthwaite in South Lakeland.

The complex woodland terrain proved a serious physical and mental challenge to many athletes but there were nonetheless some outstanding results from the Liners. Chris Lates, Joan Cumpstey and Dick Whitworth came third, fifth and sixth respectively around the Very Short Green Super Veterans course, with Keith Tonkin taking an excellent second overall on the Green course. Keith's time of 45:15 was just over two and a half minutes behind overall winner Mike Johnson of the South Ribble Club. In the junior categories, Ruben Razzetti came second behind Daniel Heppell on the Orange course. Their times were 29:13 and 28:19 respectively. Also scoring maximum points for the Liners in her category, Laura Hazelhurst had a great run just over the hour-mark in the Junior Women's Short Green category.

In the final reckoning, Chris Lates, Ruben Razzetti, Laura Hazelhurst and Dan Parker all scored a maximum 100 points in their categories, with Christine Kiddier, Keith Tonkin and Natalie Hawkrigg scoring 99. On the day, Border Liners were competing for qualification at the final against the South Ribble Orienteering Club and our neighbours from the Solway Club across the Scottish border. Missing qualification by a mere nine points, the Liners scored 1284 points from a maximum 1300 whilst the South Ribble Club took home 1293.

For the foreseeable future all orienteering, in common with every other sport, is on hold pending the outcome of more serious issues. We look forward to competing with all our orienteering friends at a later date.

David Rawle

18th May 2020

Next Sunday marks fifty years to the day since Border Liners held their first competitive orienteering event in Greystoke Forest near Penrith. On the anniversary, a number of the original competitors will be celebrating the occasion – but probably not in the way they originally envisaged!

Dick and Angela Whitworth, who are stalwarts of Border Liners and have orienteered ever since that inaugural 31st May 1970 race, were both involved in early preparations for the Liners summer birthday party, which was to have been a celebratory fun event in Chances Park, Carlisle. Instead, in this unsettling time, they will be marking the occasion like the rest of their club mates with fifty minutes exercise commencing around 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. For some, this socially distanced workout will be fifty minutes of their usual routine to keep fit during the enforced closure and for others it will be an activity with a 50-theme twist. Anything is possible – with the proviso that competitors can forward the 'results' with a photo to the 'organiser' so that in years to come orienteers of all ages can say 'I was there!'

On the sporting side, much is going on behind the scenes by the governing body to consider a safe return to competitive orienteering at some time in the future. Limited options for permanent courses, virtual courses and socially distanced coaching are being discussed and any further information about this will be detailed on the club website in due course. One activity that has caught the imagination of some during this time has been Lockdown Orienteering. These online challenges have been popular with orienteers keen to test their skills and knowledge against competitors from around the world and have included some well-known figures from the sport in the results.

David Rawle

17th August 2020

Returning to competition, Border Liners enjoyed a successful club event at sunny Faulds Brow near Caldbeck at the weekend. With restricted numbers, entry in advance and social distancing from start to finish, the organisers were rightly praised by competitors for bringing the sport back to North Cumbria in a safe manner in line with British Orienteering guidance after what has been a disturbing few months away.

Three courses, with separate starting points, were on offer for the field of orienteers with the majority of places taken by the host club. Around the 5.5km Blue course (150m climbing) it was however Steve Birkinshaw of the neighbouring West Cumberland Orienteering Club who took top honours with a time of 34.27. Making the most of the warm weather and excellent conditions underfoot, a host of Border Liners then filled the next places. James Chapman took second (35.55) followed in third by a super run from Karen Parker (41.50), James Daplyn fourth (42.25) and Keith Tonkin fifth (43.33).

On the 3.7km (95m climbing) Green course Emily Brown took first position for the Liners with an excellent time of 30.43. James Birkinshaw (WCOC) was second (35.41) with Dave Hewitt of the Warrior Orienteering Club third in 35.58. Ruben Razzetti was first of the Border Liner juniors home in fifth place (37.49) and Chris Lates had a great run for the Liners to record sixth overall with 39.12.

Making it a Birkinshaw podium hat-trick, Hannah claimed first place around the 2.7km (55m climbing) Orange course with a time of 34.00. In her first ever orienteering event, teenage newcomer Abigail Pantry claimed a fabulous second place (44.06) with Maria Gaines the first of the younger runners home in third with 50.33. Jack Batey, Hannah Winkley, Ben Winkley and Ryan Batey representing Hayton School all then came over the line in fourth to seventh places respectively separated by a handful of seconds. Well done to all the juniors!

Despite the ever-changing Covid-19 restrictions, Border Liners next event is scheduled for the Bampton area on 19th September. Details will be made available on the club website and newsletter in due course and it is likely that, once again, entry priority will go to current orienteers connected with Border Liners.

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David Rawle

7th December 2020

Border Liners finished their fiftieth anniversary celebrations in style on Sunday with their re-arranged 50 at 50 competition at Chances Park in Carlisle. Originally scheduled for 31st May, the exact fiftieth anniversary of the club's first event, it took some hard effort by club volunteers and the co-operation of the City Council and Morton Manor Community Centre to ensure the event took place during 2020. The deceptively simple format of the fifty control circuit ensured competitors needed their wits about them to stay in contact with the map as they sprinted back and forth around the Community Centre garden and adjoining park.

Making light work of the 4.8km 'Long' course, Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club visited all fifty controls in 22 minutes 53 seconds, just short of 30 seconds clear of runner-up and team mate Joe Sunley who recorded 23.21. Jamie Rennie made it a clean sweep for the West Cumberland Club in third place with a time of 24.27 with Jeff Powell-Davies of the Liners coming home in fourth place with a time of 25.38. Karen Parker was the first lady home in sixth place with an excellent time of 26.53, whilst Owain Rice completed another top ten place for the Liners in 29.04.

Around the 'Short' (3.1km) circuit Border Liners swept up all the top places with Ruben Razzetti and Tom Rawle taking first and second places respectively and Andrew Bell claiming a superb third. Their times were 22.07, 23.19 and 23.55. Laura Hazelhurst took fourth place with 26.00 whilst Jane Yates finished sixth with 32.01. The 1.9km 'Yellow' course meanwhile was a race between the youngsters and they all finished within a couple of minutes of each other. Hannah and Ben Winkley finished first and second (23:44 and 23:46) with Theo Lamont third (24:20) and Border Liners Jack and Ryan Batey fifth equal (25:12). Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you for making it a safe and enjoyable event.

Border Liners final event of 2020 will be their usual Charity fixture on Sunday 27th December with a full programme of events planned for 2021 subject to prevailing Covid restrictions in place at the time. Runners and orienteers worldwide will be hoping that 2021 brings back some normality.

David Rawle