

## **April 11<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Border Liners eased back into post-lockdown competitive mode at the weekend with a club event at Hackthorpe Woods near Penrith. Held in perfect spring conditions with cloudless skies and low temperatures, ninety competitors enjoyed the three courses on offer set out by experienced planner Gerry Garvey. Thanks to the staggered start times, Covid protocols and open expanse of new woodland, everyone enjoyed a safe return to outdoor sport.

Proving quickest around the 5.3km Green course, Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club was just under two minutes clear of runner-up Matthew Rooke of the Lakeland Orienteering Club. Their times were 28.54 and 30.33 respectively. Jeff Powell Davis was fastest Border Liner home in sixth place (34.58) with Karen Parker making the top ten and first female finisher in 37.41.

Lakeland orienteer Rebecca Rooke claimed top place around the 3.3km Short Green course with a time of 24.04. This proved to be well clear of the second and third placed Border Liner duo of Andrew Bell and Carol Edwards who returned times of 32.31 and 33.29 respectively. Laura Hazelhurst turned in a good top-ten finish to record 43.28, just ahead of fellow Liner Karen Blackburn (45.24).

There was another convincing winner of the 3km Orange course as Ash Boothroyd of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club claimed first place with a time of 27.36. Continuing her introduction to orienteering, Border Liner Abigail Pantry was second in 40.25 with clubmates Barbara Atkinson and Angela Whitworth claiming fourth and fifth places respectively with times of 53.10 and 57.19.

Also meeting in person for the first time in many months, the North West Junior Orienteering squad had a training day on Saturday at Blakeholme Woods near Windermere. Currently, Ruben Razzetti and Tom Rawle are the two Border Liners on the squad but there are opportunities for aspiring orienteers to join and represent the club and North West region in months to come.

*David Rawle, April 11th 2021*

## May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021

Border Liners marked another significant return to competition recently by hosting a round of the 2021 Cumbria Galoppen League on a crispy-dry Knipe Scar Common near Bampton. Perfect running conditions helped competitors make the most of the well-mapped terrain and selection of courses planned by Border Liner Owain Rice.

Around the 8.1km (200m climbing) Brown course, Finlay Johnson of the South Ribble Orienteering Club took top position just forty seconds clear of runner-up Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club. Their times were 42.14 and 42.54 respectively. Border Liner newcomer Jack Eyre claimed an excellent fifth place (47.03) whilst Karen Parker took a superb tenth and was first female finisher with a time of 51.04.

Nick Howlett of the Lakeland Orienteering Club was fastest around the Blue course (7.2km/175m) with a time of 51.37, almost two minutes clear of runner-up Martin Skinner of the West Cumberland club (53.11). David Mainwaring took an excellent sixth place (55.24) to keep the BL flag flying with John Ferris-Worth making the top-fifteen in 60.02.

Taking a super win around the 4.2km (150m climbing) Green course, Ruben Razzetti had a winning margin of almost five minutes from runner-up Nick Evans of WCOC. Their respective times were 29.40 and 34.08 with the young Border Liner, Razzetti, showing great running speed around the moorland terrain. Graham Capper of the Lakeland club took third position (35.02) with Stella Lewsley (39.09), Christine Goulding (39.54) and Carol Edwards (40.09) all filling the top-fifteen scoreboard.

On the Short Green (3.5km/125m) course, Chris Lates claimed the runner-up position for Border Liners with a time of 41.18, just less than two minutes behind winner Janet Nash of Lakeland Orienteering Club.

Border Liners next competitive outing is a club event on Gowbarrow Fell on Saturday 15th May with entries online only.

*David Rawle*

## May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

Border Liners continued their return to competitions with a successful club event on the slopes of Gowbarrow in the Ullswater valley. Organiser Richard Evans planned two super courses making the best of the intricate moorland terrain and only occasionally crossing the popular tourist paths. With the bracken low and the ground generally dry underfoot it was an event to favour stronger runners.

Wainwright record-breaker Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club (WCOC) was fastest by a clear margin around the 4km (200m climbing) Green course with an outstanding time of 27.25. Three Border Liners then filled the top five with Jeff Powell Davies second (35.26), Keith Tonkin third (37.44) and David Mainwaring fourth (39.21). Susan Skinner (WCOC) was first female finisher in 50.13 with Border Liner Isabel Berry having a good run to finish just behind Susan in 51.24.

Charlotte Somers-Cocks of the Lakeland Orienteering Club took first place on the 2.8km (140m climbing) Short Green course with excellent results from Dave McQuillen (Solway) and Michael Pearson (WCOC) to finish second and third. Their times were 38.04, 47.29 and 50.38 respectively. Making the top ten, Liner Chris Lates took a well-earned seventh place with 57.16.

Border Liners next event is on Saturday 12th June around England's highest market town. Alston's industrial heritage of old buildings, open spaces and narrow alleyways make it perfect for tricky urban navigation. Details of the event will be available on Border Liners new website:

[www.borderlinersorienteering.org](http://www.borderlinersorienteering.org)

*David Rawle*

## June 14<sup>th</sup> 2021

Border Liners have had a busy few weeks with regional and national competitions in addition to their first urban club event in eighteen months.

Four club members travelled to the Scottish Individual Championships last weekend. The event, around fabulous woodland terrain at Craig a Barns near Dunkeld, was organised by the Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club and all four Border Liners came away with top-five results. Stella Lewsley took an excellent first place in the W60 class, with Keith Tonkin 3rd M60, Andy Lewsley 4th M65 and Christine Kiddier 5th W65.

At the British Middle Distance and Northern Championships a fortnight ago there were plenty more good results for the Liners. The Middle Distance Championship is one of the key events in the orienteering calendar and this year was held in the challenging terrain around Newby Bridge and Finsthwaite in the southern Lake District. Once again it was Stella Lewsley who claimed the top finish for the Liners with second place W65. Hot on her heels however were Christine Goulding (3rd W55) Dick Whitworth (5th M80), Robin Thomas (5th M70) and Keith Tonkin (6th M60). Congratulations to all those who made the top-ten.

The following day, the Manchester and District Orienteering Club organised the Northern Championships on the neighbouring High Dam terrain at Finsthwaite and Border Liners came away with a class-winning Northern Champion. Chris Lates superb result in the M80 class was one of the standout moments of the day with other notable scores from Stella Lewsley (2nd W65), Keith Tonkin (3rd M60), Ruben Razzetti (3rd M16), Christine Goulding (4th W55) and Raymond Wren (4th M75).

Finally, the sun shone and the church bells rang in Alston last Saturday to coincide with the Border Liners promoted UK Urban Orienteering League event in the town. With the start and finish on the Tyne Willows Park on the River South Tyne, new organiser Paul Watson produced two excellent courses taking runners from the top to the bottom of Alston with plenty of intricate navigation in between. West Cumberland (WCOC) orienteer Jamie Rennie was quickest around the 4.5km (120m climbing) long course with a time of 27.07. John Embrey of the South Ribble Orienteering Club (30.04) and Border Liner Jeff Powell Davies (30.13) finished second and third respectively. Kay Hawke of the Pendle Forest Orienteers was first female finisher with a time of 33.11. Daisy Rennie (WCOC) was first finisher on the 3.1km (90m climbing) short course ahead of Liners Stella Lewsley and Andrew Bell. Their times were 23.43, 27.54 and 29.27.

*David Rawle, June 14th 2021*

## July 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

Border Liners promoted a round of the Cumbria Galoppen orienteering league recently with a superb event in the Angle Tarn Pikes area above Patterdale. Normally an area used by the Manchester and District Orienteering Club, the Liners secured permission to use the terrain through good club collaboration and landowner approval. With extensive contour and rock detail, the high open-fell area above the valley proved surprisingly runnable and resulted in some quick times across all courses.

Taking first place on the 8km (560m climbing) Brown course was visiting Scottish orienteer Chris Smithard. Chris is a member of Forth Valley Orienteers based in central Scotland and his time of 59.14 was more than five minutes clear of runner-up Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club (WCOC) (65.10). Andrew Stemp of the Yorkshire 'Airenteers' claimed third place (68.24) with James Chapman and Keith Tonkin flying the Border Liners flag in seventh (74.00) and fifteenth (82.53) places respectively.

Daniel Heppell of the West Cumberland Club claimed top honours around the Blue course (5.8km / 360m climbing) with a time of 56.18. Wilfrid Teasdale (WCOC) and Midlands orienteer David Lawson (Octavian Droobers) took second and third places in 59.32 and 60.35 with Paul Gaines having a good run for the Liners to finish fourth in 61.16.

With one of the biggest winning margins of the day, Border Liners youngster Ruben Razzetti continued his stellar 2021 season with first place around the 3.7km (310m climbing) Green course. Ruben's time of 36.58 was a little over seven minutes clear of WCOC juniors Isaac Hunter (44.19), and Daisy Rennie (45.20). Across all the local clubs the junior orienteers are really shining at present and Ruben will shortly be taking his place in a National Junior training week near Aviemore.

In the remaining categories there was another good result for Border Liners youngsters with Maria Gaines' second place around the 3.1km (240m climbing) Light Green course. Maria's 72.46 was short of a super winning time of 53.24 by WCOC youngster Sophie Crawford but her split times between controls were impressive and showed continued improvement.

Border Liners next club event is at Aughertree Fell near Uldale on Saturday 14th August on courses planned by Border Liners juniors. For further details please see the BL website in due course:

*David Rawle, July 18th 2021*

## August 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

Border Liners juniors took centre-stage last weekend as course planners for the club event at Aughertree Fell near Uldale. Having originally planned the event for 2020 and subsequently postponed it due to Covid, it was satisfying for the juniors to see plenty of runners competing on the open fellside courses.

Philip Winskill of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club took first place around the 6.2km (175m climbing) Blue course in a time of 41.51 just over five minutes clear of runner-up and clubmate Ian Cumpstey (47.09). Jeff Powell Davies flew the Border Liners flag for a well-deserved fourth place just ahead of Karen Parker in sixth. Their times were 47.28 and 49.00 respectively.

On the 4.4km (120m climbing) Green course, West Cumberland youngster Isaac Hunter took top honours ahead of visiting runner Oliver Bardsley of the Hertfordshire based HH Orienteering Club. Isaac stopped the clock at 38.13 and Oliver on 40.49. Stella Lewsley of the Liners took third place in 42.24 and Liners junior Maria Gaines had one of the standout results of the day to finish fourth with 44.18.

Ellie Darlow of the Roxburgh Reivers Club claimed first place on the 3.3km (80m climbing) Short Green course in 31.51 with Dougal Kyle of the Liners finishing inside the top five with 53.00. Well done to Ruben, Tom and Laura for their work to plan the courses and to the senior club members who helped make the event happen.

In early August several Border Liners made the trip North for the Scottish Six Day event in the Lochaber area of the West Highlands. Despite a last-minute change of format, again due to Covid, the event ran well and a number of Border Liners featured in the results. Of particular note, Raymond Wren and Dave McQuillen took joint first place in the M75L class, Karen Parker was first W35L, Stella Lewsley was first W65L and Jeff Powell Davies and Andrew Bell were first in their respective M40S and M70S classes.

Border Liners next event is another club fixture on Saturday 4th September at Swindale near Shap. All entries are to be made online in advance and further details will be available on the club website.

*David Rawle, August 16th 2021*

## September 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

The British Sprint Orienteering Championships took place in Skelmersdale recently and Border Liners returned to Cumbria with some silverware for their efforts. A tricky combination of rural and urban features around the 1960's Lancashire new town suburbs ensured that pinpoint navigation was key to success.

In the Individual Championships, Border Liner Judy Johnson lead from the first control to take a superb win in the W70 class. Her time of 12:40 was more than a minute clear of runner-up Sheila Strain of the East Lothian Orienteering Club. In the W40 event, Isabel Berry ran an excellent second half of the course, with first placed split times on the final ten controls, to take a well-deserved third place behind Sally Calland and Liz Heaton. Their times in this hard-fought category were: 15:35, 16:03 and 16:27 respectively.

In the following day's Sprint Relay Championships, Border Liners Ultra Veteran team of Stephen Eastleigh, Christine Kiddier and Andrew Bell clinched the bronze medal by a single second after Andrew's sprint for the finish. Teammate Christine was in no doubt how they secured the bronze medal. 'Andrew's sprint for the line clinched it' she said. The Border Liners trio pipped the East Pennine Orienteering Club team of Richard Spendlove, Arabella Woodrow and Richard Payne with respective times of 48.22 and 48.23.

Back on Cumbrian soil, Border Liners promoted their latest club event on the open fellside terrain of Swindale with a full field of competitors. Steve Birkinshaw of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club took top honours around the 6.7km (175m climbing) Blue course with a time of 45.43. Steve's blistering time was almost five minutes clear of runner-up Rudi Paul of the St Andrews Glasgow Orienteering Club (50.11) with Border Liner Keith Tonkin picking up a useful third place in 56.07. Liner's Junior Ruben Razzetti had a similar winning margin around the 4.7km (140m climbing) Green course. Ruben's 40.04 secured the win ahead of Isaac Hunter of the West Cumberland team (44.41) with Andrew Bell clinching another top ten finish for the Liners in 55.56. Emma Moody of the West Cumberland Orienteering Club took first place around the 3.5km (105m climb) Short Green course (49.22) with Jane Yates taking a top ten finish for the Liners with 67.16.

Border Liners next event is their 'Long O' event on Bampton Common and Helton Fell on Sunday 26th September. For entry details and details of the following event in Carlisle on 16th October

*David Rawle, September 12th 2021*