

“Allerdale Chase” Report – July 2019



Firstly congratulations to all the competitors who took part in this year’s “Allerdale Chase” on the beautiful fells and moorland north-west of Ullswater last weekend. Thank you for continuing to support this relatively new event – with over 100 runners we had the largest number of entries yet in the six years it has been going.

The courses were once again planned to offer a range of challenges including tough terrain and some detailed navigation. The weather on the day was warm and humid with some cloud cover which added to the challenge but at least reduced the risk of sunburn.

Results:

The complete results are listed on the WCOC website (www.wcoc.co.uk/results), along with WinSplits, Splitsbrowser and Routegadget for those who want to analyse their runs.

In brief, the Long Course was won by Dan Spencer of WCOC who, having run over 18km with approx 750m climb in a little over 2 hours, finished just a minute and a half ahead of Nick Barrable (SYO) who in turn was under a minute in front of Aidan Smith (SYO). Karen Parker of BL was first lady (just as she was in 2015 when the event was last held here).



Long Course: Karen Parker – first lady and Dan Spencer – winner

First place on the Medium Course was not quite so closely contested, with SOC's Tamsin Moran taking the win with a 5 minute margin over Derek Ratcliffe (LOC) who won first man, with Mark Simmonds (LOC) taking 3rd place a further 3 minutes behind.



Medium Course: Tamsin Moran –winner, and Derek Ratcliffe – first man

The Short Course was dominated by a trio of experienced Borderliners members: Dan Parker took the win with a 10 minute margin over Stella Lewsley (first lady), and Debbie Thompson in third a further 6 minutes behind.



Short Course: Stella Lewsley – first lady, and Dan Parker - winner

On the Very Short Course, Pete Hudd (WCOC) took the win by nearly 2 minutes from talented NATO Junior Benedict Sanderson, who was in turn a few minutes ahead of Anna Murgatroyd (first lady) in third place.



Very Short Course: Anna Murgatroyd (first lady), David Spencer (planner) and Pete Hudd (winner)

A few planner's notes:

The courses were designed to give competitors a good challenging run and to go on something of a journey – from the positive comments received from people after their runs, I hope that these goals were at least to some degree achieved. (I also hope that runners on the Long and Medium Courses enjoyed the “waterfall control” which was chosen because I thought it was a beautiful spot rather than a navigational challenge.)

I am not an experienced enough planner to be able to predict winning times on courses of given lengths in different terrain, but from the results would suppose that most competitors think they got at least their money's worth! I also have to trust that when people enter they will take into account their own abilities in terms of deciding which course to run.

To conclude:

If you enjoyed this event, or having read about it now wish you had taken part, keep an eye on the WCOC website for other events, and in particular the Copeland Chase (held each November in West Cumbria) another Long O.

Finally, thanks once again to the National Trust and the Commoners' Associations for permission to use their land, to Borderliners Orienteering Club for the use of their area (Watermillock Common), and to Mr Wilson (for use of his lovely sheltered parking field).

Thanks also to the following individuals who all helped in different ways with the planning, organisation and on the day help; Dave Fenwick and Rob Holder (parking), Steve Breeze (photography), Mike Billingham (permissions), Jane and Isaac Hunter (starts and photography), Lynne Thomas, Joe Hudd and Frank Townley (control collecting), and Vanessa Brierley (public relations and refreshments). A great team effort!

David Spencer (organiser) – 17th July, 2019



Hope to see you all again same time next year!

