

Fixtures Secretary Report

Since the last AGM we've had a very successful year of events in the club's 50th year, covering our four main winter, spring, summer and autumn series (see average attendance figures below), Galoppens and Club Chases.

Summer 2010	82
Summer 2011	65
Summer 2012	64
Summer 2013	61
Summer 2014	59
Summer 2015	61
Summer 2016	59
Summer 2017	70
Spring Fell Races 2010	38
Spring Fell Races 2011	33
Spring Fell Races 2012	35
Spring Fell Races 2013	27
Spring Fell Races 2014	22
Spring Sprint Series 2015	55
Spring Sprint Series 2016	44
Spring Sprint Series 2017	58
Autumn Park Races 2010	68
Autumn Park Races 2011	62
Autumn Park Races 2012	54
Autumn Park Races 2013	55
Autumn Park Races 2014	55
Autumn Park Races 2015	63
Autumn Park Races 2016	61
Autumn Park Paces 2017	74
Winter 2009-2010	39
Winter 2010-2011	29
Winter 2011-2012	35
Winter 2012-2013	32
Winter 2013-2014	35
Winter 2014-2015	37
Winter 2015-2016	35
Winter 2016-2017	47

Numbers have been very good this year showing significant increases across all four series compared to last. The Summer Series was a great success. Total attendance over 18 events was 1260, an average of 70 per event, with numbers ranging from 38 (Miterdale) to 93 (Coledale). It was noted that some of the older maps would benefit from an update.

The 2016-17 Night series attracted ~801 runners with an average of ~47. Great to see many more members enjoying the challenge of orienteering in the dark, and a great new venue for the finale and prize giving at Maryport Golf Course.

The 2018 Spring Series was once again a mixture of formats, starting with 4 short sprint events, and then two 'retro' and two 'modern' events as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The former gave the current membership a taste of the black and white maps and pin punches from the olden days and were an

entertaining change from dibbers and downloads. Unfortunately, due to the lack of a planner we were only able to hold one of the 'Modern' events at Buttermere, with 83 runners turning up to this popular event. Although the 'Retros' were a special for 2017, it is still planned to do a mixture of events next spring, so again keep an eye on the website (and the request for planners!). In total, 406 people came to the Spring series, an average of 58 per event.

Finally, the Autumn series that has just come to a close with the traditional event in Keswick followed by the pie and pea supper at Kong has again proved very popular, especially with the local Brownies and Beavers! Numbers were again up on last year with a total of ~440 participants, and average of ~74.

We again put on several Sunday winter morning events at Keltonfell, Camerton, Slate Fell and Whinlatter Visitors Centre, which attracted an average of 42 runners (168 total), with the latter two being by far the most popular. In an effort to rationalise the number of level D events that the clubs holds, it has been decided to reduce the number of Sunday morning winter events for 2017-18 down to two at venues close to Cockermouth after Christmas, i.e. Slate Fell (14/01/18) and Setmurthy (18/02/18).

Hence, the total attendance over the last year over the four main club series (plus Sunday winter morning events) was ~3050 compared to ~2300 last year), demonstrating how much the weekly Thursday evening events are a mainstay of the club and part of its identity.

As a result of recent difficulties finding planners for our weekly Thursday evening events, especially with the extra demands on volunteers in the 50th Anniversary year, the Committee considered the following three causes and agreed courses of action:

1. A steady increase in the number of Level D events over the past ~5 years (spring series, Sunday mornings, etc.): **Reduce the number of Level D events by 4 or 5 in the short term until 2) below is addressed (Sunday morning, events near Xmas, events near/in JK, S6D, L5D, etc.)**
2. A slow decrease in the pool of regular planners for Level D events: **A more pro-active approach to finding new planners will be taken and the club will have all the mechanisms in place to allow new planners to take on a Thursday evening event (including shadowing, mentoring, guidance, training, etc.)**
3. An increase in the 'formal' requirements (risk assessment, NT/FC permissions, mandatory BOF Event Safety Workshop) for our 'informal' events: **Some of this is unavoidable, but where possible generic RA, NT- and FC-applications would be made available to planners. Event Safety Workshops will be organised as required.**

In the Galoppen series, WCOC narrowly lost the Borrowdale Trophy in 2016 to LOC, but are currently ahead in 2017 with two events remaining (Grizedale North, 29/10/17 and Bleaberry Fell, 26/11/17). Numbers have been up since the last AGM with 208 at High Brow, 211 at Hawse End, 176 at Blea Tarn, 203 at Dalegarth (in the 50th 'Double Header' Eskdale weekend), 166 at Threlkeld, and 208 at Cockup (an average of 195 compared to 161 over the previous 4 events). Whether this an increasing trend, or whether we've benefit from better weather and scheduling of events isn't clear.

However, although Galoppen numbers have improved for WCOC, it has been increasingly difficult for the Cumbrian clubs to support the number of events it used to. In 2017 there are 9 events in the series (BL = 1, LOC = 3 and WCOC = 5). BL do not have sufficient members for >1 event per year, and LOC tend to focus on their Spring/Autumn level B weekends. Hence, for 2018, the series only has 8 events planned (WCOC = 4, LOC = 3, BL = 1).¹ Hence there are some question marks over the long-term sustainability of the Cumbrian Galoppen Series. The WCOC events for 2018 are: High Rigg (29/04/18), Wythop Valley (03/06/18), Whinlatter (16/09/18) and Leaps Beck (25/11/18).

A successful Club Chase, held at Hawse End back in January, was won by Matt Vokes. In addition, as part of the club's 50th Anniversary Celebrations, a Summer Club Chase was held at Scale Hill in July with Joe Sunley first back. The Parish Relays and a Bike-O event were also held on the same 50th Anniversary weekend. The 2018 Club Chase is scheduled on 7th January at Rannerdale - details will appear on the website soon (and a planner is needed!).

¹ The SROC level C event at Farleton Knott may also be included in the 2018 Galoppen series (tbc).

Finally, I'd just like to thank all the people in the club who have helped at our events in the past 12 months. In particular, I'd like to thank all the planners, organisers, mappers and Access Officers. Roger for printing the maps and looking after all the equipment (including managing the SI boxes and sorting out the results), Kate and latterly Pete for looking after the leagues, and the website team for ensuring event details and results are posted in a timely fashion. It's fantastic that the club is able to hold an event every Thursday throughout the year as well as several larger events, but only because of the generosity of its members giving up their time.

Access Officer's Report

Before I start, I'd just like to say that I'm giving this report on behalf of all the club's Access Officers, who've worked tirelessly to ensure that we've continued to have a largely trouble free year getting permissions for our events. The new National Trust on-line permission system has now been operating for well over a year, and the extra requirements (including 6 weeks' notice) are largely being managed satisfactorily. Even the larger events for the 50th Eskdale weekend had no issues from an access point of view.

The response from the NT remains inconsistent, e.g. sometimes a formal permit is sent, sometimes not, but the new on-line Event Application system has moved on from being a local pilot to a fully national scheme. Although the on-line form requires a lot of information, e.g. environmental policy, insurance, normal and emergency operating procedures, maps of the site as well as the courses, risk assessment, competency of officials, risk assessment, etc. it is possible to use previous applications as a template with many of the fields automatically completed, saving significant time. Furthermore, a library of documents has now been built up covering the majority of our NT areas.

Although a concession has been agreed that if a number of events were submitted at the same time, a "two for one" charge would apply this is rarely possible due to most events not being submitted until right on the 6 week deadline. It is proving impractical to get a large number of events planned sufficiently far in advance to do this. On a positive note, none of the submitted requests have been declined and all of the events on NT land have taken place, albeit sometimes without any response from the relevant Lead Ranger, or an actual permit!

The club is still looking for a dedicated NT Liaison Officer to manage the new event application system to ease the burden on myself.

Further information on the new NT event permission process can be found via the following link:

<http://www.ntlakesoutdoors.org.uk/event-permission>

The other major landowner that the club has to deal with on a regular basis is the Forestry Commission, who have a similar permissions system to the NT again requiring 6 weeks notice. Steve Breeze is our FC Access Officer, who has requested that he be sent the required information (just the draft courses) 7 weeks in advance to ensure the application is submitted in good time. The FC are generally becoming more conscious of the use of their land for events, especially where clashes between users may occur, e.g. MTBs and orienteers. This has limited us in some areas in terms of parking and increased out-of-bounds areas.

Finally, I'd like to say a massive thank you to Steve Sullivan who has decided to stand down as the club's Kinniside Access Officer after many years' service. Although Kinniside Common is NT-owned, we always ensure that the local Tenant farmers and Commoners are asked and kept informed about the many events we hold on Flat Fell, Blakelely, Latterbarrow, Matty Benns, etc. Steve's local knowledge and contacts with the Kinniside Commoners have been invaluable over the years and his efforts have been very much appreciated over the years. The club is currently looking for a successor – ideally someone local!!