

Fixtures Secretary Report

Since the last AGM we've had another successful year of events, covering our four main winter, spring, summer and autumn series (see average attendance figures below), Galoppens and Club Chase.

Summer 2010	82
Summer 2011	65
Summer 2012	64
Summer 2013	61
Summer 2014	59
Summer 2015	61
Summer 2016	59
Summer 2017	70
Summer 2018	62
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
Spring Sprint Series 2018	62
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
Autumn Park Paces 2018	56¹
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
Winter 2017-2018	49

Numbers have been good again this year holding reasonably steady across all four series. The attendance of the Summer Series were lower compared to 2017 but consistent with recent years going back to 2011. The total summer attendance over 16 events was ~1000, an average of 62 per event). Total attendance over the summer was ~1000, an average of 62 per event, with numbers ranging from 36 (Dalegarth) to 98 (Threlkeld). A greater 'range' than last year, with the latter benefitting from visitors remaining in the area after the Lakes 5.

¹ Up to Harris Park (27/09/18)

The 2017-18 night series attracted ~800 runners in total with an average of ~49 per event. Great to see a small increase over last year with many members now enjoying the challenge of orienteering in the dark, and another new venue for the finale and prize giving at Silloth Golf Course.

The 2018 Spring Series was once again a mixture of formats, starting with 4 short sprint events, and then 4 (45 min) score events. Both formats proved very popular, the latter in particular benefitting from choosing 'central' venues in close proximity to Cockermouth with >80 at Fangs Brow and Scale Hill. In total, 500 people came to the spring series, an average of 62 per event.

Finally, the autumn series, which is shortly to come to a close with the traditional event in Keswick followed by the pie and pea supper at Kong has again proved very popular. With two events remaining, the average attendance is 56, which is down on last year, although again similar to recent years prior to 2017.

As decided last year in an attempt to rationalise the number of level D events the club puts on, we only held two Sunday winter morning events at Slate Fell and Setmurthy. Both were popular, with ~70 attending each showing that there is a place for them on the calendar, although choice of venues and dates is key.

Hence, with two autumn events remaining, the total attendance over the last year over the four main club series (plus Sunday winter morning events) was ~2650 compared to ~3050 last year. Although this is a decrease it should be borne in mind that 2017 was the Club's 50th, and is perhaps better compared to the ~2300 in the previous year. So, notwithstanding the very high attendance in 2017 for the Club's 50th anniversary, total numbers are very healthy and are generally trending higher.

As a result of last year's difficulties finding planners for our weekly Thursday evening events, especially with the extra demands on volunteers in the 50th Anniversary year, the following were implemented in 2017-18:

1. Reduction in the number of Level D events by 4.
2. A more pro-active approach to finding new planners with mentoring, etc. being offered.
3. Use of generic RA, etc. for NT- and FC-applications.
4. Completion of the mandatory BO Event Safety Workshop by ~60 club members.

These measures have resulted in planners being found for all level D events this year, although there is still more that can be done to encourage both new and returning planners.

In the Galoppen series, WCOC won the Borrowdale Trophy in 2017 and are currently ahead in 2018 with several events remaining (including Leaps Beck on 25/11/18). Numbers have been mixed since the last AGM with 248 at High Rigg, 142 at Wythop, and 142 at High Brow (an average of 177 compared to 195 over the previous 4 events). Whether this a decreasing trend, or whether we'd benefit from better scheduling and location of events isn't clear. Note that the cancellation of the Bleaberry event in November 2017 as a result of access issues has resulted in WCOC only organising three Galoppens since the last AGM.

Despite some difficulties for the Cumbrian clubs to support the number of Galoppens it used to, there will be 10 events in 2018, thanks in part to the inclusion of SROC's Fartleton Knott event in the series, and BL organising 2. However, there are still some question marks over the long-term sustainability of the Cumbrian Galoppen Series. The WCOC events for 2019 are: Hawse End (10/02/19), Muncaster Fell (28/04/19), Threlkeld Knotts (09/06/19) and Cockup/Uldale (06/10/19).

A successful Club Chase, held at Rannerdale back in January, was won by Louis Morris. The 2019 Club Chase is scheduled on 6th January at Scale Hill - details will appear on the website soon (and a planner is needed!).

Finally, I'd just like to thank all the people in the club who have helped at our events in the past 12 months. It's a real team effort with many people involved in ensuring that we are able to hold an event every Thursday throughout the year. 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), Pete for looking after the leagues, and the website gurus (Anne and David) for ensuring event details and results are posted in a timely fashion.

I've been coordinating this effort over the past 6 years, but am unable to continue in this role. I am also stepping down as Fixtures Secretary, so if anyone is interested in taking on either of these roles, please let me know.

Access Officers 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. And special thanks to Kate Charles for taking over as Kinniside Access Officer.

The response from the NT remains inconsistent, e.g. sometimes a formal permit is sent, sometimes not, but the on-line Event Application system is here to stay (at least in the Lake District). 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.

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 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. There can be a few more restrictions on FC land due to felling operations and other users. However, they are keen to support events on their land and were extremely helpful in the re-arranged Lakes 5 event at Whinlatter this summer.

The club is looking for an NT Access Officer to manage the on-line event application system. In addition, Steve Breeze is stepping down as FC Access Officer, so if anyone would like to take on this role, please let myself or a member of the Committee know.