



## Schools Report 2022



### WCOO Schools League

Eleven schools joined us for the WCOO Schools League in 2022; most of these based in Allerdale, with just one from Copeland. There were 951 entries in total, with most weeks having over 150 juniors attending.

Before Easter, we offered a Prologue event at Fairfield in Cockermouth, to get everyone back into orienteering after the two-year Covid gap. Five league events followed between Easter and the summer half term week. The Final was held in June.



With help from Claire Smits, we enjoyed the first event in a new school area, Ashfield Juniors, Workington. We then visited Powter Howe, Longlands Lake, Vulcan Park and Whitehaven Academy. Wythop Valley provided an excellent area to hold our WCOO Schools Final, on yet another glorious sunny day. Roger Jackson came to join us and handed out the prizes to the juniors.

The team for events varied each week with Jamie managing the download for the juniors at each event. Phil, Debbie, Bob, Dave and Tony also assisted during the series. Special thanks to the three juniors who helped us; Emma Crawford, Issy and Joe Sunley.

Having increased the entry fees in 2022, we have been able to purchase additional SI units for the schools kit; we now have 20 units to work with, along with additional SI cards.



### Schools Coaching

Coming out of Covid, we visited just one school this year, but this proved a great connection as we were able to use the school grounds during our league series for the primary schools later in the year.

Jamie and Lynne ran two sessions for Whitehaven Academy using an updated map. Having the electronic schools kit we were able to plan sprint courses round the school buildings for the juniors. This was easily their favourite part of the sessions so we left the school with the maps to keep practising.

Thanks to Pete Nelson for updating the map. It will need yet more updating as a result of their new building, but this will give us scope to run a different set of courses for them next time.



### Cumbria School Games

Following on from Roger's work with Active Cumbria, we were asked to run orienteering at the School Games in July. The aims of the event have had an overhaul and now focus on inclusivity rather than competition. So, we introduced them to Maze Orienteering, as well as offering the traditional park orienteering. Adding to the challenge, Active Cumbria had also invited Secondary Schools from each district giving us 180 juniors to entertain during the day.

With the full team turn out, we could let everyone try both Maze and Park O. We were particularly pleased with the Maze; Active Cumbria had sourced fencing for us to enable a full size maze to be built. This was so much better than our polyposts and plastic netting, we need to explore how we can replicate this for other activities such as KMF.

Joe and Jonty Goodwin joined us to manage the Maze Leader Board. Joe Sunley, Charlie and Daisy Rennie provided support to Jamie at the download station. Emma Cooper managed the Maze throughout the day. With each junior having an average of 8 runs in the maze, the paper on the printer ran out pretty quickly. Options to improve this are being considered for 2023.

Lynne Thomas

