

“Allerdale Chase” Report – June 2015



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 yesterday. Thank you for supporting this event, and for braving the elements on the day.

The courses were planned to offer a range of challenges including tough climbs, some detailed navigation and tricky terrain. The weather on the day, I think it is fair to say, only added to the challenge. The morning started off with strong winds and lashing rain which eventually gave way to drier conditions with blue skies, and in the very sheltered parking field it became warm enough for shorts and T-shirts – perfect for drying off all the wet kit with which the runners returned! When it did finally clear up, it was possible to watch competitors on the Long and Medium courses make their way across the north side of Watermillock Common.

Results:

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

In brief, the Long course was won by Joe Mercer of SELOC who, having run over 18km with approx 750m climb in under 2 hours(!), finished a stunning 20 minutes ahead WCOC’s Lewis Taylor (second for the second year running), who in turn was 6 minutes in front of Chris Hope (WCOC). Karen Parker of BL was first lady.



Joe Mercer (right) – Long course winner



Karen Parker – Long course first lady

First place on the Medium course was more closely contested, with one of LOC's top M18 juniors – Noah Howlett – taking the win by just over a minute from Kim Baxter (of SYO) who won first lady and also beat her partner Richard Baxter (SYO) into third place by a 5 minute margin.



Daniel Spencer (centre) – Short course winner



Chris Hope – 3rd on Long course

The Short course was also won by one of the region's many talented juniors, Daniel Spencer (from WCOC), who finished with a comfortable 15 minute lead over SROC's Rebecca Rooke (who was first lady). Ben Breeze took on many much more experienced orienteers including WCOC's Roger Thomas, who he successfully beat into fourth place by just over a minute.



Catherine Wetherfield – Very Short course winner



Lewis Taylor – 2nd on Long course

On the new-for-2015 Very Short course, Catherine Wetherfield (WCOC) took the win by 8 minutes from BL's Richard Moss, who was in turn a couple of minutes ahead of Malcolm Mclvor (DEE).

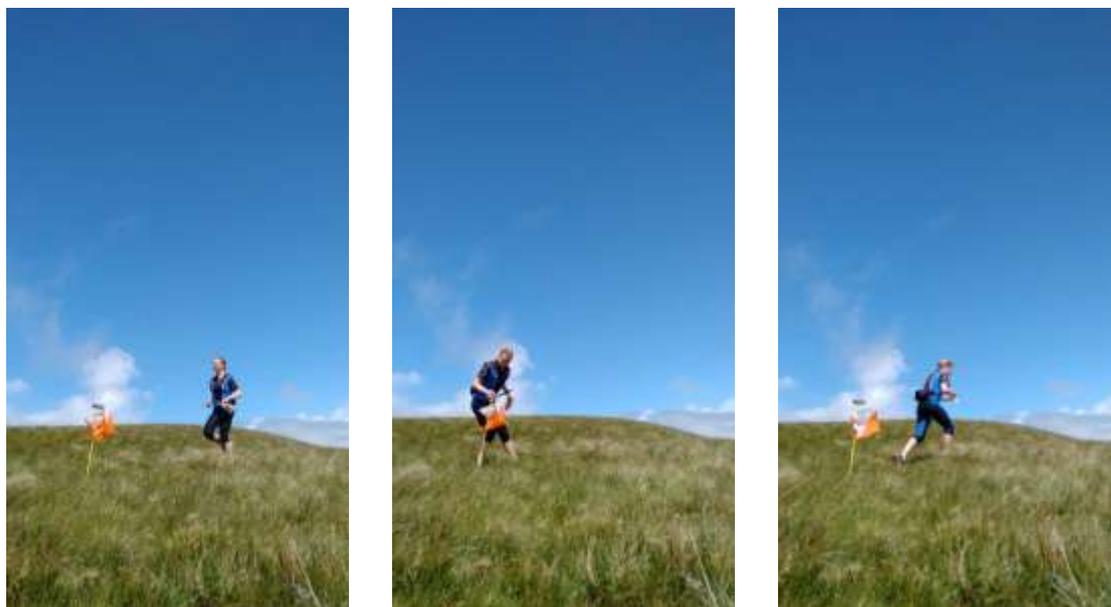
A few planner's notes:

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 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. I tried to plan for proper orienteering style control sites, but think that in some

cases the kites were too visible from distance (something I never complain about when running myself, but which I am aware might disappoint more accurate orienteers!). Last year, kites and control boxes were both at ground level, leading to some controls being trickier to find than intended. Perhaps next year I (or another planner) will find a more successful compromise.

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.



It wasn't this sunny at the start!

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 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), Roger Jackson (advice and entries), Mike Billingham (permissions), Pete Nelson (mapping issues), John Slater (advice), John Taylor (starts and control collecting), Rosie Spencer (control collecting), Daniel Spencer (collecting the controls after running!) and Vanessa Brierley (public relations). A great team effort!

David Spencer (organiser) – 29th June, 2015

Hope to see you all again same time next year!