



**Allonby** - Thank you to Chris Emmerson for this week's Allonby event, the first in the Spring series, although you would have been forgiven for thinking it was still Winter, given the cold conditions. On the 3.6km Long course, honours went to Charlie Rennie who took the win in 19:51, with Jamie Rennie 2nd in 20:33 and Dan Heppell 3rd in 22:47. The rest of the top ten was made up of Emma Crawford 4th (1st lady), Sam McLoughlin 5th, Andy Bradley 6th, Steve Holmes 7th, Stuart Crawford 8th, Daisy Rennie 9th (2nd lady), and Ryan Crellin 10th. Issy Sunley was 3rd lady.

On the 2.3km Short course, Toby Heppell took the win in 14:47, with Isaac Hunter 2nd in 15:25, and Sophie Crawford 3rd in 16:15. The rest of the top ten was made up of Patrick Gorrill 4th, George Rennie 5th, Eva Humphreys 6th, Susan Skinner 7th, Roger Thomas 8th, Alice Jackson (IND) 9th and Julie Ferris-Worth (BL) 10th. On the novice course Beatrix Gorrill was 1st and Mille Graham (IND) 2nd.

(For information - a passing motorist commented that some runners crossing the road were difficult to see due to the dark clothing they were wearing. Please be careful if crossing or walking/running along roads, especially at this time of year when later runners may still be running in darkness or almost darkness, and you may want to consider wearing some reflective or brighter-coloured clothing).

This week's event is at Marron Leys which is an excellent small area of maturing and managed woodland. It is an excellent area for those new to orienteering and families. Young children should be accompanied. Novice maps will be handed out at registration and coaching is encouraged. Entries are open on Racesignup and will close on Tuesday at 23:59. (Full details on WCOC website).

**Spring Series** -23/03/2023 - Cockermouth Moor; 30/03/2023 - Grange, Borrowdale; 13/04/2023 - Pardshaw Crag; 20/04/2023 - Maryport.

The Spring series offers a great opportunity for those new to orienteering to give it a go on safe areas, with easier navigation. As always, entries will be via Racesignup and will close the Tuesday night before the event.

#### Other Events -

##### WCOC:

19/03/2023 - High Rigg, Galoppen -

(High Rigg→)

NB - Entries Close Wed 15th March and entries are via SiEntries.

There are a full range of colour-coded courses available, including yellow and orange courses for less experienced orienteers. NB full details on the WCOC website.

Liz Elliott would be very grateful for another couple of helpers on Sunday. Currently she is running with a skeleton crew. Anyone who can help please contact Liz asap (lizedelliott@btinternet.com).

##### BORDER LINERS:

02/04/2023 - Burnbanks, Galoppen. Entries are now open on SiEntries and close on 29th March 2023. Pre-entry required apart from some limited on the day entry (subject to map availability) on Yellow and Orange. Full details on BL website.

LOC: See LOC website for regular Wednesday night events.



**Masterplan Events.** Well done to those Club members who took part in the Lakes Spring weekend.

Saturday was the middle event at Blind Lane. On the Black course Dan Spencer was 5th, Joe Sunley 9th, Joe Hudd 11th, and Charlie Rennie was 16th. On the Brown course Niamh Hunter was 4th, Daisy Rennie 18th and Isaac Hunter 23rd. On Blue, Toby Heppell was 2nd, Danny Winterbottom 13th Myrtle Ashworth 16th, and Scott Ashworth was 18th. On Green, Lynne Thomas was 18th, and on very short green Liz Elliott was 7th, and Hiroki Holmes was 9th. Sola Holmes was 5th Orange.

Sunday was the long event at Loughrigg. On the Black course Joe Sunley was 6th, Dan Heppell 8th, and Charlie Rennie 11th. On the Brown course, Niamh Hunter was 3rd, Emma Crawford 14th and Daisy Rennie 19th. Toby Heppell had a great win on the Blue course, Steve Holmes was 8th. On Light Blue, Dave Downes was 5th, George Rennie 7th and Helen Rennie 15th. On the Green course, Sophie Crawford was 5th, Roger Thomas 7th, Lynne Thomas 9th and Ian Teasdale 18th. Catherine Wetherfield was 9th on Short Green, Tony Duncan was 5th on Light Green and Hiroki and Sola Holmes were 4th and 5th respectively on Orange. (Full results can be viewed at masterplanadventure.uk)



**Don Scarrott** - For those of you who do not get the CompassSport magazine, I thought you might like to see the lovely article written by Tony Pennick and Roger Jackson, remembering former WCOC member Don.

# **DON SCARROTT WCOC 11<sup>TH</sup>** **NOVEMBER 1928 – 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY** **2023**

Tony Pennick recollects...

"I first met Don at a small WCOC event in December 1969 in Blengdale, and we were regular attendees at WCOC events for over 40 years. In the beginning, Don was, by his own admission, slightly eccentric. Before the advent of proper O-gear, he would orienteer in an old jacket and tie - and he would take his dog with him. On my 3<sup>rd</sup> O-event in a very snowy Wark Forest in Northumbria, I started before him, but I knew Don was ahead of me because I could see "dog tracks" appearing around a block of impenetrable forest. He got round in 2 hrs 15mins. It was over an hour later before I finished. Don and I were members of the WCOC Committee for over 30 years, where he did an excellent job as Treasurer, keeping WCOC solvent for many years.

We became firm friends, because we both worked at Sellafield, and both started to draw O-Maps at about the same time -



Left to right: Three of the original members of WCOC, U. Nelson, Ray Nelson and Don Scarrott at a WCOC prizegiving.

pen and ink and drawing film in those days. Don worked with computers and with the advent of the ZX-Spectrum, he managed to write a program to produce pictorial descriptions for the JKS Relay event in Dunnerdale. After he retired, he was in his element when the OCAD computer mapping programs became available in the late 1980s. He was able to delve into the workings of OCAD to find out how each object on a map was stored within the program and how to add items to that store. From that he was able to write programs so that a planner for a major event could add all the control points onto an OCAD map, complete with their pictorial control description, control code and needle punch symbol. Other programs he prepared then allowed the planner to prepare individual overprints on the map, complete with control descriptions, course lengths and height climbs, as well as a lot of information useful for the planner and controller. Now there are OCAD planning programs to do this - but then, this was groundbreaking stuff. I volunteered to write the "Help Files" to explain how to use Don's programs - we made these programs available to other O-Clubs, which some will remember as the PICOVER system (PICtorial Descriptions and OVERprints). Much of the "development" of this system took place as I was driving Don to WCOC's weekly events. His mind worked like a computer and I found it was as if my job to "program" him to achieve the desired result - we had some memorable discussions driving to and from events. For our troubles, we were jointly awarded the Chris Bonington Trophy for Services to Orienteering Mapping in 2000 - the trophy is a small piece of rock from the top of Everest.

For the next fourteen years, until I moved to York, the conversations we had on those journeys were memorable, even if I didn't always understand all that we discussed. Don would always leave the

house in a shirt and tie, change into his O-gear in the back of the car, and after he had finished, change back again. I was allowed to drive off from the event car park until he'd got his tie on! I drove, he bought the beers and inevitably a "sticky toffee pudding" for his supper. He rarely finished it all and I've been privileged to taste some of the best sticky toffee puddings in the whole of the Western Lake District.

Don was also a wizard with electronics. In the early days (before LEDs), he quickly realised that timing competitors accurately across the finish line at an event using analogue (kitchen) clocks was prone to errors, so he developed an infra-red beam at the finish line that beeped when a competitor interrupted it, and made up a digital clock so that the finish official just had to see the numbers and write down the finish time. He then made a second one for the Start Line. When electronic punching became available, he developed a program for WCOC's weekly events that animated each competitor's event time to a mass start "horse race" so we could see where we lost and gained time on our "rivals". It made for some fascinating discussions in the pub after the event, long before RouteGadget came on the scene.

In his later years, Don turned his hand to mechanical engineering and got great satisfaction from making or modifying model clocks, small steam engines and model railway engines. He joined the West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers, and I can only echo the comments they made on hearing of his death. "Don was a genius in mechanical and electronic engineering and had the gift of being able to see and solve a fresh problem from an unusual angle."

To me, Don was a genius, but above all he was a fellow orienteer and a very good friend."



Don delighted at the first steam-up of the locomotive that he made which he christened 'Duke Pir'.

Don was always coming up with something and often bringing items to

committee meetings for consideration. He surveyed many areas which became the bedrock for the regular club's events. He would use a trundle wheel out in the terrain measuring distance as he went, noting the distance and bearing of each of the legs between two known points that were already on the map. He used a computer programme to plot the data and then find the best fit for the data from his walk.

Don experimented with a plotter on wheels (much akin to the autonomous machines used to cut the lawn or hover the carpet) which he programmed to overprint courses onto maps. It was rather slow since each map had to be verified on its register marks first. A problem that didn't come with a worthwhile solution.

Don produced one of the first flip over digital clocks. It made its appearance at WCOC Badge events and only just survived the rough handling of start officials and the weather. He also produced a talking starter for the routine of informing the orienteers on the start line. The only problem was that the start officials couldn't stand the repeating voice every minute and eventually pulled the plug!

Then he dabbled with CCTV at the last control allowing the finish team to anticipate the arrival of the next finisher.

Don eventually retired from the sport about ten years or so ago when he found the terrain unforgiving should he trip and fall. He was the main carer for his partially sighted wife Eva, and knew crutches and a plaster on his leg weren't conducive to performing that properly.

He is remembered fondly by so many people. We all miss him.

Written by Tony Pennick and Roger Jackson WCOC

## **COMPASS SPORT CUP - 12th March 2023 - Beanley**

### **WCOC**

Name	Class	Score
Charlie Rennie	1	100
Hiroki Holmes	9A	100
Issy Sunley	8B	100
Toby Heppell	8A	100
Anne Burbidge	7	100
Sola Holmes	9B	100
Emma Crawford	5	100
Simon Hunter	4	100
Jenny Evans	3	100
Elizabeth Elliott	10	100
Daniel Heppell	2	100
Daisy Rennie	5	99
John Taylor	6	99
Jamie Rennie	1	98
Danny Winterbottom	8A	98
Wilfrid Teasdale	2	98
Roger Thomas	6	98
Nick Evans	6	97
Joseph Goodwin	1	97
Lynne Thomas	5	97
Sophie Crawford	8B	96
Simon Thomas	2	96
Ange Jackson	3	96
Alan Irving	4	96
Urszula Bronkowska	3	95

A strong Club team made the trip across to the North-East today to take part in the CompassSport Heat.

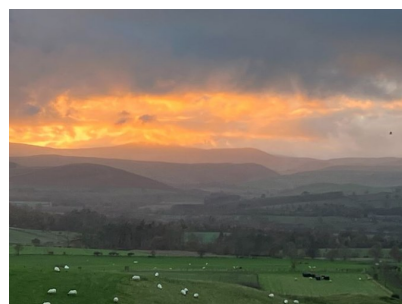
Beanley is an open area of rough moorland with extensive heather coverage which at times hid the crags and boulders. It was a great team effort with WCOC taking the win with 2460 points, from AIRE in 2nd with 2380 points and CLOK 3rd with 2318 points.

It was a good team performance across the board, with no fewer than 11 club runners earning maximum points!

Club counters are shown on the left.

WCOC have now qualified for the final which takes place in the Forest of Dean on 12th November 2023.

Well done everyone!



**great job!**

## **British Long Distance and Relay Champs**

25th and 26th March -The Individual Long race will be held at Cold Ash, near Newbury. Those of you who attended JK 2019 will remember this area as the venue for Day 3. The Team Relays will be held at Hambleden, used for the British Night Championships 2020 and Chiltern Challenge 2021 (there will be no nettles in March!) Details available here - <https://www.theboc.org.uk/>

**Entries close tonight for the individual event.**

### **Sophie Crawford**

Age Category: W16 Club: WCOC

- 1 What is your favourite orienteering terrain? Urban.
- 2 When and why did you start orienteering? I started in 2019 when I tried a few primary school events.
- 3 What's a funny/embarrassing moment from an event? I once refused to punch a control because there were sheep next to it!
- 4 What's your biggest orienteering achievement? Coming second at the British Sprint Champs 2022.
- 5 Do you do any other sports? I play some hockey.
- 6 Who is your biggest (friendly) rival? Anna Todd SYQ.
- 7 What are you most looking forward to in 2023? Hopefully getting selected for Interland or Deeside.
- 8 What advice would you give to a younger junior? Go to the toilet before you run!
- 9 What skills do you want to focus on in the next year? Compass work (Not going miles off for fun!)
- 10 How do you prepare for a big race? I run (semi)regularly and geek a bit, then I wait for someone to tell me the final details (quite often the day before).
- 11 What's your biggest distraction in a race? Anything and everything!



Sophie Crawford at the Lagganina Tour Champs in July 2022

Nice to see Club member Sophie Crawford featuring in the latest edition of the CompassSport magazine.