

Introduction

WCOC organises local events in West Cumbria every Thursday evening, which stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period.

When British Orienteering announced a Return to Orienteering, for WCOC this meant only one thing; a return to Thursday Evening orienteering. There was no thought of anything else.



Keep things simple

To be able to successfully return to Thursday Evening orienteering, the arrangements implemented needed to be:

- **Simple** to understand,
- **Simple** to implement,
- **Simple** to follow.



Entries

A WCOC event entry system has been developed by the club's webmaster, allowing any British Orienteering member to enter.

WCOC Entries

Events My Entries Runners Profile FAQ Logout

Events

General event guidance during Covid is on the WCOC website [here](#)
Participant Code of Conduct is [here](#)

Whitehaven, Kells

Date: Thu Sep 3rd

Entries close: Wed Sep 2nd 11:59pm
or earlier if limits are reached.

[Event Details](#)

18:00 Long Jon Eaton

Available starts:

Time	Short	Long
17:30	0	0
17:45	3	1
18:00	6	0
18:15	8	7
18:30	9	4
18:45	10	10

Entries closed

Vulcan Park, Workington

Date: Thu Sep 10th

Entries close: Wed Sep 9th 11:59pm
or earlier if limits are reached.

[Event Details](#)

18:00 Long Jon Eaton

Available starts:

Time	Short	Long
17:30	0	0
17:45	5	6
18:00	8	1
18:15	10	10
18:30	10	7
18:45	10	10

[Edit my entries](#)

Maryport

Date: Thu Sep 17th

Entries close: Wed Sep 16th 11:59pm
or earlier if limits are reached.

[Event Details](#)

18:15 Long Jon Eaton

Available starts:

Time	Short	Long
17:30	0	1
17:45	7	8
18:00	8	2
18:15	10	9
18:30	10	9
18:45	10	10

[Edit my entries](#)

Cockermouth

Date: Thu Sep 24th

Entries close: Wed Sep 23rd 11:59pm
or earlier if limits are reached.

[Event Details](#)

18:00 Long Jon Eaton

Available starts:

Time	Short	Long
17:30	0	0
17:45	4	3
18:00	9	5
18:15	9	10
18:30	10	7
18:45	10	10

[Edit my entries](#)

- The system collects required contact details.
- Entrants must have a Si Card.
- Entries are for a block of four events.
- Competitors select their event(s), course and start time block.
- No payment is taken (payment by BACS transfer after event/series).
- A small discount has been offered for competing in all four events.
- The system enables the planner to print out a start sheet.



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Other arrangements

Areas:

The areas for the first events were chosen with knowledge of the position being taken by different organisations, such as the Forestry England and National Trust.

Maps:

The number of maps to print is decided, and the maps printed, a few days before the event. More maps are printed than entries, and the entry system amended to allocate these additional maps to available start time blocks.

Si Cards:

No Si Cards are available for loan at the event, but WCOC members can arrange for the long-term loan of a Club “dibber” at no cost. At least 10 Si Cards have been loaned to members.



Other arrangements

Equipment:

All the Club equipment is kept in a brick shed at a Member's property. The main equipment (including 30 Si boxes 151-180 + Start, Clear and Finish boxes, etc.) for a Thursday Evening event is kept in a "bread tray". Additional Clear and Start boxes, etc. have been added to enable two starts. Equipment is collected on a Wednesday or Thursday morning and returned by Saturday morning. This gives at least 72 hours between handling for different events. Hand sanitiser is included with the equipment.

Special arrangements have been put in place for the download equipment.

Additional items have been added to the Club's First Aid equipment rucksack, following advice from a committee member who is also in a Mountain Rescue team.



At the Event

- All competitor's checked in by the event planner/organiser, using a sheet produced by the entry system, including confirmation that no Covid-19 symptoms.
- Sanitiser at check-in station.
- No handling of money at the event.
- Map handed to competitor by the planner/organiser. Less unused maps printed and no re-use of maps.
- No Si cards available for hire at the event.
- Two separated starts, both usually within a short distance of the check-in station.
- Splits printout not given to the competitor.



Experience to-date

- Nine separate events have now been organised by WCOC, four in each of August and September and one in October.
- The Covid-19 arrangements have worked very well, with no problems being reported.
- There has been a clear desire to get back to orienteering as near as normal, and all competitors have been very happy to comply with the additional requirements.
- The August 2020 series of four events recorded a total of 303 separate runs, an average of over 75 per event, with the event at Low Rigg attracting 92 competitors. In comparison, the equivalent four events in 2019 recorded 264 separate runs, with the highest entry of 92 at Setmurthy.



Experience to-date

- Members of 15 other British Orienteering clubs took part in the 2020 WCOC August series, in addition to a good turnout from WCOC members. Members from ten other clubs competed at Low Rigg.
- The four events in September recorded 235 separate runs, an average of 59 runners per event, slightly down on the 262 runs in September 2019 (although 27 runs in 2019 were a party of Rainbows and Brownies at one of the events).
- WCOC has attracted twelve new members since the start of August, resulting in a 2020 membership now two members higher than for 2019!

