

Compass Sport Cup – How we did and how we can do better

I'd better start by explaining the scoring system for the small clubs, Trophy, competition. It's not quite as simple as 'the best 13 scores count'.

There are 10 courses assigned to age classes and only a fixed number of runners can score in each class:

Course	Classes	Counters
Brown	Open Men	3
Blue Women	Open Women	2
Blue Men	M45+, M20-	3
Blue Women	W45+, M20-	2
Green Men	M60+	2
Green Women	W45+, W20-	2
Short Green	W60+,M75+	2
Orange Men	M14-	2
Orange Women	W14-	
Light Green Men	M18-	2
Light Green Women	W18-	

All Trophy competitors are ranked in finishing order and then ,for those classes with 3 counters points are allocated 100, 99, 98, ... and for those with 2 counters points are allocated 100,98,96, ...

Of your counters you then take your best 13 out of a possible 18. Runners other than counters can have an effect if they beat counters of other clubs as this reduces the score of the other clubs.

This scoring system means that so long as a club can count 13 runners they will get a reasonable looking score. But in terms of doing well it's actually places not points that really count.

The overall trophy result was:

Club	Points	Counters
NGOC	1282	13
WRE	1239	13
SMOC	1205	13
COBOC	377	4

So we were 34 points down on Wrekin and 77 on NGOC.

Here's how all SMOCs runners did in terms of points and places in the Trophy competition:

	Points	Place
Open Men		
Steve Hardy (M55)	88	13
Ric Brackenbury	85	16
Toby Fisher	82	19
Open Women		
Sacha Fisher	94	4
Karen Vines	92	5
M45+		
Keith Downing	97	4
Paul Rushmer	96	5
Mike Jones	95	6

	Points	Place
Dorien James	94	7
Haydn Leaker	85	16
Ian Byrne	78	23
Neil Carter	77	24
Richard Pownall	Miss Punched.	
W45+		
Rachel Edwards	92	5
Ann Harris	90	6
Helen Nisbet	88	7
Lois Matthews	84	9
Rachel Thomas	80	11
Ros James	78	12
M60+		
Robert Dove	70	16
Colin Nicholson	68	17
W60+		
Rosie Shaw	94	4
W18-		
Carys James	100	1
M14-		
James Nisbet	100	1

I've shown all our potential counters scores in bold.

Lets start with bouquets. Our two juniors did us proud both winning their trophy classes. Also honourable mentions to the M45s who saved Richards blushes by packing the middle scoring places. Had Richard not miss punched he would have been 2nd so that only cost us 3 points. Dorien may have been just out of the counters but by coming 7th he reduced the opposition score. Ann Harris also deserves a mention, a good safe run put her within seconds of Rachel Thomas.

As to brikbats it doesn't take a lot of close analysis to work out that the Open Men could have done better; just getting in 7/8/9 would have gained us 24 points. In retrospect perhaps I should have run one or two fast M45s up in the open class. This was the first time Ric had run a Brown course, so he actually did well and Toby hasn't been orienteering long so we can hope for better things in the future.

Except for the Open Men, and the M60+s (who's scores where dropped anyway) all the other classes scored in the top 6 places which gives us a solid base to build on.

How can we improve? Certainly second place is within our reach. If the Open Men can get just a little bit better and we can recruit one or two more that would help.

If we could find a few more Juniors that would be a huge boost. There were very few juniors competing in the Trophy classes. It's not inconceivable that 4 competent Juniors could collect 400 points.

Otherwise we just need a few people to pick up a place or two; a few more 1,2,3s rather than 4,5,6s would do the trick. Some of our 55+ers will soon be moving up which should boost the M/W60+ classes. We wouldn't have needed to improve 34 places to pick up 34 points. A place is worth 2 points in the smaller classes and when we go up the opposition goes down so a place could improve our relative score by 4 points.

Steve Hardy