

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2015/2016

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 1 May 2015.

2. **Elections / Re-elections:**

President: Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)

Hon. Gen. Sec: Geoff Newton (Tadworth AC)

Hon Treasurer: Don Turner

Hon. Race Sec.: Don Turner

Hon. Asst. Sec. Archives & History: Brian Boulton (Cambridge Harriers)

Hon. Asst. Sec. Trophies: Brian Boulton

Hon.Auditor: Sarah Smith

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Polesden Lacey on 19 November 2015, hosted by Dorking Mole Valley AC. There were 284 finishers.

Men

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Alex Yee (U20) Kent AC | 25.24 |
| 2. Phil Wicks Belgrave H | 25.46 |
| 3. Chris Greenwood (M40) Kent AC | 26.24 |

Women

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Lucy Reid Tonbridge AC | 31.19 |
| 2. Amy Clements Kent AC | 31.28 |
| 3. Amantha Amend Belgrave H | 31.50 |

U20 Men

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Alex Yee Kent AC | 25.24 |
| 2. Max Nicholls Tonbridge AC | 26.21 |
| 3. Nathan Gibson AFD | 28.46 |

Men's Teams (4 Score)

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1. Kent AC | 38 pts |
| 2. Belgrave H | 49pts |
| 3. Tonbridge AC | 52pts |

Women's Teams (4 Score)

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Kent AC | 42pts |
| 2. Belgrave H | 67pts |
| 3. Dulwich Runners | 76pts |

Men's Teams (8 Score)

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1. Kent AC | 135pts |
| 2. Tonbridge AC | 205pts |
| 3. Herne Hill H | 364pts |

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Somerhill School, Tonbridge on 19 December hosted by Tonbridge AC. There were 242 finishers.

Men

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. John Gilbert Kent AC | 42.29 |
| 2. Stephen Ferroni Brighton & H | 42.39 |
| 3. Max Nicholls Tonbridge AC | 42.58 |

Women

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Amy Clements Kent AC | 50.40 |
| 2. Nicole Taylor Tonbridge AC | 51.00 |
| 3. Samantha Amend Belgrave H | 52.19 |

M40	Chris Greenwood	Kent AC	43.07	W40	Cath Stibbs	Kent AC	54.53
M50	Alex Howey	Tunbridge Wells H	51.12	W50	Clare elms	Dulwich Runners	53.54
M60	Mike Pocock	Reigate Priory	58.42	W60	Maggie Statham	Holland Sports	62.26

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1. Kent AC 52pts
2. Tonbridge AC 58pts
3. Belgrave H 117pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Dulwich Runners 92pts
2. Kent AC 99pts
3. Belgrave H 106pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 236pts
2. Kent AC 293pts
3. Brighton & Hove AC 708pts

One of the main duties of the General Secretary is to find clubs to host our races. This is becoming increasingly difficult as finding suitable venues becomes more difficult. That said if the will is there from the club concerned, a decent venue is usually forthcoming. My thanks to all concerned who make our races possible. This year we enjoyed two very different but two very good new venues for the Association. I hope as many clubs as possible will take their turn. Many hands make light work.

Landowners and local authorities are becoming more concerned about matters of insurance and in some cases are seeking a financial return for use of their land. Event organisers from other sports such as cycling are happy to pay high fees for land use and this tends to up the level of fees paid or alternatively means that other uses get priority over us. The cost of arranging toilets and first aid is also an increasing burden. These increasing costs mean that it will soon be necessary to increase our race entry fees. Currently our races are best value for any significant competition.

We have already tried to raise more money and also encourage clubs to enter more runners by charging clubs a single fee of £10 covering up to 10 runners, with any extra runners charged at £1 per head. However, many people find the concept difficult to understand and we will probably revert to a simple charge per head which is likely to rise to £2 per head.

On the subject of insurance, I found it advisable during the course of arranging the 5 mile race to re-affiliate the Association to England Athletics. My respected predecessor claimed to have discussed the matter with UKA and determined that affiliation was not necessary since the permits for our races are obtained by the host clubs, and hence the insurance cover would be obtained via the affiliation of the host club to EA. However, it must be said that he was like many of us no fan of the new structure of athletics. At the time our Association decided to play safe affiliate to EA anyway. When EA doubled the affiliation fee to £100 I recommended to the last AGM that we cease to affiliate and the motion was passed. Alas discussions with the host club for the 5 mile race and later with the insurance broker concerned I thought it prudent to change my mind and I re-affiliated the Association. Essentially when the manure hits the fan everybody ducks and if both the Association and the host club are covered by the same insurance company there is no incentive for them to wriggle out of paying. My apologies for not having these conversations before I made the proposal not to re-affiliate.

Geoff Newton