

SOUTH OF THE THAMES
CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

Est. 1893, Affiliated to UKA

MINUTES OF AGM, BELGRAVE HALL, 11 April 2025

Present: M.Boucher, C. Dickinson, A. Mead, G. Newton, R.Pearson, M Saunders

1. **Apologies for Absence:** K. Haynes, M.Mann
2. **Minutes of AGM of 12 April 2024:** Accepted
3. **Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere:** None
4. **Secretaries Business:** The Secretary emphasised the importance of regularly contacting the club team managers to raise the profile of our races, given the congested nature of the fixture list. The Secretary regretted that his tribute to Don Turner in his report did not do justice to Don's achievements in Ultra Distance running. The 2025 Championship Race will provisionally be held on Saturday 20 December 2025, at Wimbledon Common. The 5 mile Team Race will provisionally be held on Saturday 22 November at Farthing Down hosted by South London Harriers.
5. **Treasurers Report and Business:** The accounts were presented and agreed. Ruth stated that Lloyds were charging SOTCCA £4 a month for the account and suggested that she look for a cheaper alternative. This was generally agreed.
6. **Election of Officers for 2025 / 26:** (All candidates unopposed)

President: Charles Dickinson was proposed and accepted. Charles came late to serious athletics but reached international standard in masters athletics, particularly in his 50's. Now he is very active for Belgrave Harriers as a team manager, coach and timekeeper.

General Secretary:	Geoff Newton, Bournemouth AC
Treasurer:	Ruth Pearson, Striders of Croydon
Race Secretary:	Mike Boucher. Aldershot Farnham & District AC
Webmaster & History:	Alan Mead, Belgrave Harriers
Inspector of Accounts:	Kate Haynes, Aldershot Farnham & District.
Life Members:	As per handbook

7. **Affiliation Fees** It was unanimously agreed to keep the affiliation fee to £10 per club per year.

8. **Race Fees**

After some discussion it was agreed to raise the race entry fee to £4 per runner and the fee for late entries increased appropriately.

9. **AOB**

9.1 Charles Dickinson suggested that an earlier start time for the races would be appropriate, particularly for the Championship race. There was support for this and it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the 2026 AGM.

9.2 There was general agreement that SOTCCA would benefit from a social media presence. Mike Boucher and Alan Mead offered to attempt to find a person willing to take on the post of social media master. Alan and the person in question would need to work together and this would also be helpful when Alan eventually decides to retire from the post of webmaster.

9.3 Mike Boucher thought that further efforts should be made to increase attendance at the AGM. Ruth Pearson stated Zoom meetings were one way. The downside to this was that chairing a Zoom meeting required specialist skills in tech and in Zoom chairing.

9.4 Alan Mead offered to put a tribute to the late Don Turner on the SOTCCA website, based on Dave Clarke's tribute to Don at the recent memorial service. This was agreed.

9.5 At various times during the meeting there was considerable discussion and exchange of information on the practicalities of hosting races, such as 1st Aid provision, toilet provision, land permission, provision of marshalls. Much of this was related or relevant to the 2025 hosts.

Geoff Newton
Gen Sec