

## SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2022/23

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 29 April 2022.

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

President: Mike Boucher Aldershot, Farnham & District AC

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

Hon Treasurer: Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)

Hon. Race Sec.: Don Turner until end Nov. 2022

: Mike Boucher from start Dec. 2022

Hon. Webmaster: Alan Mead

Hon. Auditor: To be arranged

Mike Boucher has taken over as race secretary after the 5 mile race. Don Turner retains responsibility for obtaining medals and any officials not provided by host club.

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held in Lloyd Park Croydon on 26 November 2022, local organisation by Croydon Harriers and Striders of Croydon. There were 246 finishers.

**Men**

1. Dominic Nolan	Croydon H	25.29
2. Edward Chuck	Dulwich Runners	25.57
3. Josh Trigwell	Belgrave H	26.23

**Women**

1. Georgie Bruinvels	AF&D	30.01
2. Susie Monk	G&G	30.37
3. Catherine Candie	Kent AC	31.51

**U20 Men**

1. Kay Davies	G&G	30.03
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**U20 Women**

None entered.

**Men's Teams (4 Score)**

1. Kent AC	33 pts
2. Belgrave H	35 pts
3. Dulwich Runners	68 pts

**Women's Teams (4 Score)**

1. Kent AC	20pts
2. Herne Hill H	41pts
3. Belgrave H	43pts

**Men's Teams (8 Score)**

1. Kent AC	111 pts
2. Belgrave H	143 pts
3. Dulwich Runners	249 pts

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Wellesley Woods, Aldershot on 17 December hosted by Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC. There were 141 finishers.

**Men**

1. Ben Cole	Tonbridge AC	38.30
2. Alex Howard	Tonbridge AC	38.37
3. Josh Hobbs	Brighton & H AC	39.40

**Women**

1. Georgie Bruinvels	AFD	44.50
2. Serena Carter	TH&H	45.46
3. Naomi Lenane	Belgrave H	46.49

M40	Jeff Cunningham HHH	41.49	W40	Suzanne Swaine HHH	48.06
M50	Ben Paviour HHH	42.53	W50	Sophie Biggs The Stragglers	49.32
M60	Mick Lane Ranelagh H	48.31	W60	Ange Norris Dulwich Runners	65.18

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 47pts
2. Guildford & Godalming 127pts
3. Kent AC 173pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 312 pts
2. Guildford & Godalming 485 pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Belgrave H 50 pts
2. Herne Hill Harriers 116 pts
- 3.

Once more we have to thank Aldershot, Farnham and District for not only hosting a fixture, but, thanks to Mike Boucher and Kate Haynes, dragging us into the 21st Century. The introduction of online entry proved very popular and will be the sole method of entry next year. They also introduced bar code numbers which meant that results were available in time for presentations on the day and were online before I arrived home in Bournemouth.

Mike has taken over the race secretary's job with help from Kate so we can look forward to quick reliable results in future.

We are also considering putting payment of affiliation fees online next year, given the unpopularity of cheques.

Two of the three missing trophies are back in circulation, (no names, no pack drill) and I have a good idea where the other one is, although getting it back may be difficult given that I live so far away from the action.

The number of starters at the Championship Race was disappointing. However, it is Location, Location, Location. Holding the race on the fringe of the current catchment area at Aldershot was always going to lose us in the region of 100 runners. The days of teams travelling from Bristol and Cardiff are long gone. The rail strike on race day was also a problem.

As usual fixture congestion is a problem, particularly for the 5 mile race. **It would help if the cross-country leagues held their fixtures on the nationally recommended dates.**

Each year I say "I am becoming concerned about the fact that the running of the Association is mostly in the hands of a very small number of rather elderly persons and that these people cannot go on forever. Hopefully younger people will step up to fill the breach when this becomes necessary, otherwise 130 plus years of history will go down the drain." With each year that passes, this comment becomes ever more to the point, even without Covid-19.

This process of renewal has finally started with Mike Boucher taking over some of Don Turner's functions. My predecessor Derek Crookes was secretary for 31 years. I have been doing the job for 15 years. I hereby give notice that I will serve a maximum of 5 more years, less if a suitable replacement can be found. I will then be 10 years older than Derek was when he sadly passed away. The Hon. General Secretary's job is not a demanding one; it's a leisurely marathon not a sprint.

Geoff Newton

Hon Gen Sec