

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2019/20

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 26 April 2019.

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

President: Dennis Williams (Veterans AC & Hercules Wimbledon)

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

Hon Treasurer: Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)

Hon. Race Sec.: Don Turner

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

Hon. Asst. Sec. Trophies: Brian Boulton

Hon. Auditor: To be arranged

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Morden Park on 23 November 2019, local organisation by Dennis Williams. There were 347 finishers.

Men

1. Joe Morwood	AF&D	25.38
2. Ben Bradley	AF&D	25.43
3. Owen Hind	Kent AC	26.08

Women

1. Emily Wickes	AF&D	29.14
2. Carlyne Baxter	G&G	30.10
3. Holly Dixon	Cambridge H	30.38

U20 Men

1. Oliver Hall	Bracknell AC	29.00
2. Michael Cotterill	Walton AC	29.09
3. Isaac Maxwell	Kent AC	29.47

U20 Women

None entered.

Men's Teams (4 Score)

1. Kent AC	21 pts
2. Kent AC 'B'	49 pts
3. Herne Hill H	58 pts

Women's Teams (4 Score)

1. Kent AC	56pts
2. Belgrave H	74pts
3. South London H	87pts

Men's Teams (8 Score)

1. Kent AC	70 pts
2. Kent AC 'B'	218 pts
3. Herne Hill H	219 pts

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Lloyd Park, Croydon on 15 December hosted by Striders of Croydon and Croydon Harriers. There were 350 finishers.

Men

1. Joe Morwood	AF&D	40.11
2. Corey De'ath	Tonbridge AC	40.54

Women

1. Nicole Taylor	Kent AC	46.11
2. Lucy Reid	Tonbridge AC	47.22

	3. Owen Hind	Kent AC	41.40	3. Phoebe Barker	Tonbridge AC	48.59	
M40	Steve Winder	Epsom & Ewell H	45.38	W40	Sophie Briggs	The Stragglers	52.56
M50	Andrew Mitchell	TVH	47.06	W50	Ruth Hutton	South London H	57.12
M60	Simon Bean	Epsom & Ewell H	49.35	W60	Michelle Bradshaw	Tun. Wells H	65.26

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1.	Kent AC	98pts
2.	Brighton & Hove AC	103pts
3.	Herne Hill H	144pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1.	Tonbridge AC	42 pts
2.	Brighton & Hove AC	100 pts
3.	Thames H&H	195 pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1.	Kent AC	360pts
2.	Herne Hill H	741pts
3.	Guildford & G	1134pts

Fixture congestion as always was a problem, but we managed to avoid the Kent and Surrey League matches this year, helped in part by there being 5 weekends in November 2019. Next year may be more difficult.

Morden Park and Lloyd Park provided traditional cross-country courses with decent facilities and their relatively central, accessible locations make them popular. There were 347 and 350 finishers respectively, so there is still a demand out there for our races.

Some problems were experienced at Lloyd Park with getting accurate results out in a reasonable time, given that clubs from further afield need to depart promptly. The distance and conditions resulted in a very strung out field and with team managers unable to hand in their disc envelopes until their back markers had finished, it means that working out the results is a bit frantic. Apologies to Brighton & Hove AC women whose team medals went to the wrong club on the day and to the veterans who have to wait a few days to find out if they have won individual medals. Maybe we need more space and more help for this task.

On that note I would like to thank Martin Duff for his invaluable assistance over the years with both computing and reporting the results on the day and in AW. We are sorry that now he has moved up to Lincolnshire it is no longer possible for him to come down to our races. The only upside of this is that the current President can now present the awards in keeping with our tradition.

What happens in the 2020/2021 season will be anybody's guess due to Covid-19.

Last year I said "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 more to the point, even without Covid-19.

Geoff Newton

Hon Gen Sec