

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2023/24

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 14 April 2023.

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

President:	Andy Perks (Striders of Croydon)
Hon. Gen. Sec:	Geoff Newton (Bournemouth AC)
Hon Treasurer:	Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H) until Autumn 2023 Ruth Pearson (Striders of Croydon) from Autumn 2023
Hon. Race Sec.:	Mike Boucher (Aldershot Farnham & District AC)
Hon. Webmaster:	Alan Mead (Belgrave Harriers)
Hon. "Auditor":	Kate Haynes (Aldershot Farnham & District AC)

Don Turner retained responsibility for obtaining medals. Accounts are subject to independent inspection, not full audit.

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held in Beckenham Place Park on 25 November 2023, local organisation by Kent AC. There were 276 finishers.

Men

1. Edward Chuck	Dulwich Runners	24.37
2. Jack Ramm	Dulwich Runners	24.50
3. Cameron Dockerill	Kent AC	24.59

Women

1. Eliza Hawthorn	The Stragglers	27.50
2. Georgie Bruinvels	AFD AC	28.01
3. Emily Robbins	Belgrave H	28.05

U20 Men

1. Felix Vaughan	SLH	25.33
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U20 Women

None entered.

Men's Teams (4 Score)

1. Kent AC	27 pts
2. Belgrave H	32 pts
3. Dulwich Runners	61 pts

Women's Teams (4 Score)

1. Belgrave H	29pts
2. Kent AC	41pts
3. Herne Hill H	66pts

Men's Teams (8 Score)

1. Kent AC	97 pts
2. Belgrave H	141 pts

3. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Lloyd Park Croydon on 16 December jointly hosted by Croydon Harriers and Striders of Croydon. There were 265 finishers.

Men

1. Ben Cole	Tonbridge AC	39.55
2. Edward Chuck	Dulwich R	40.37
3. Max Nicholls	Kent AC	41.02

Women

1. Georgie Bruinvels	AFD	46.34
2. Lea Adamson	Belgrave H	46.54
3. Molly Smith	S L H	48.24

M40	Tom Mower	Kent AC	41.45	W40	Vicky Cartwright	Kent AC	53.43
M50	Simon Coombes	HHH	44.33	W50	Maria Heslop	Tonbridge AC	53.17
M60	Mark Tennyson	G&G AC	49.21	W60	Ange Norris	Dulwich Runners	60.05

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1. Belgrave H 70pts
2. Kent AC 80pts
3. Tonbridge AC 87pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1. Belgrave Harriers 267 pts
2. Kent AC 356 pts
3. Dulwich Runners 744 pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Belgrave H 36 pts
2. South London Harriers 101 pts
3. Dulwich Runners 140 pts

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.**

A big thank you to Don Turner, who has finally called time on his many decades of service to the Association in various roles and in particular Treasurer and Race Secretary. When my predecessor Derek Crookes resigned in 2007 after 31 year's service, his role was split into two with Don taking over Race Secretary and myself as General Secretary. Don had already taken over the Treasurers role from Jim Heathcliffe a few years earlier. Without Don the Association could well have folded and nearly 140 years of history come to an end.

Another big thank you to Mike Boucher who has dragged us into the 21st Century when he took over as Race Secretary. Under his leadership our two races went without a hitch this year and results were available promptly, enabling presentations to be made before it got dark and before everyone had gone home.

Mike has also liaised with Race Results to provide online entries and online affiliation, again dragging us into the 21st century.

A third big thank you to Ruth Peason who has taken over from Don as Treasurer. The takeover from a branch -based account to an online account with a different provider was not as smooth as expected, but showing admirable patience she got there in the end.

As he got older Don was finding it difficult dealing with IT and was not capable of making the changes which needed to be made. I do not wish to fall into the same trap. I will be resigning in 2027 if I have not already been replaced by then. I will then have served for 20 years and be 10 years older than my predecessor was when he sadly passed away.

The trophy for the individual male winner of the 5 mile race is still missing. If it does not surface soon, we need to replace it.

These days a lot of runners obsess about their Power of 10 rankings. In deference to their wishes, host clubs need to permit their races through UKA not ARC. Our races are for EA affiliated clubs, EA licensed runners and should be run under EA permits. ARC serve a useful purpose in restraining the avaricious tendencies of a "professional" ie paid bureaucracy, but in our position we need to stick with the official body.

Geoff Newton Hon Gen Sec