

SOUTH OF THE THAMES
CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

Est. 1893, Affiliated to UKA

MINUTES OF AGM, BELGRAVE HALL, 14 April 2023

Present: M.Boucher, J.Gebbels, A.Lea-Gerrard, G. Newton, C.Oxlade, A.Perks, D.Turner

1. **Apologies for Absence:** M.Kiernan, M. Mann
2. **Minutes of AGM of 29 April 2022:** Accepted
3. **Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere:** None
4. **Secretaries Business:** The 2023 Championship Race will be held on Saturday 16 December 2023, at Lloyd Park, jointly hosted by Croydon Harriers and Striders of Croydon. The 5 mile Team Race will provisionally be held on Saturday 25 November 2023 at Beckenham Place Park hosted by Kent AC.
5. **Treasurers Report and Business:** The Association's finances were in a healthy state. Simplified accounts for 2022 were presented and approved. The Treasurer agreed to serve for another year, but Andy Perks would approach his wife (who is Treasurer of Striders of Croydon) to see if she could take over after or during this year. The job of the Treasurer was becoming simpler as race entries had been taken over online by Race-Results. It was also proposed that Race-Results would take over collection of the affiliation fees and co-ordinate this with race entries. Mike Boucher to arrange this with Race - Results and to let the Secretary know the details so that he could inform the clubs on the procedures.
6. **Election of Officers for 2022 / 23:** (All candidates unopposed)

President: Andy Perks of Striders of Croydon has been in charge of cross country at his club for 6 years. A late comer to athletics he excels in long distance running and made the "good for age" start at the London Marathon for 6 years running and been placed in a number of ultra events. (His daughter has represented Surrey at cross country)

General Secretary:	Geoff Newton, Bournemouth AC
Treasurer:	Don Turner, Epsom & Ewell H
Race Secretary:	Mike Boucher. Aldershot Farnham & District AC
Officials Secretary:	Don Turner Epsom & Ewell Harriers
Webmaster & History:	Alan Mead, Belgrave Harriers
Auditor:	Mike Boucher to approach Kate Haynes
Life Members:	As per handbook

7. **Affiliation Fees** It was unanimously agreed to raise the affiliation fee to £10 per club per year.
8. **Race Fees** It was unanimously agreed to raise the standard race fees from £2 to £3 per runner. It was also agreed to allow some flexibility in pricing, for example if the landowner were to charge a land access fee per runner. This

could be added to the standard fee at the discretion of the Treasurer. Now that the race fees were paid online it was possible to charge extra for late entries without creating extra work for officials. It was agreed to take late entries up to 24 hours before the race and charge £6 per runner.

9. "Trans" Runners

Recent developments had effectively changed the agenda. As understood, UKA had now reached an official position that all athletes will have to compete according to their sex at birth. As we run our races under UKA rules, we have to comply with this. In a matter as controversial as this there will always be individuals and groups who will disagree with any position but by following UKA Rules this is UKA's problem not ours.

10. AOB

(a) Mike Boucher and Kate Haynes would be operating race timing with AFD equipment for both 2023 races, as a trial period, but after that the position would be reviewed. Medium term, the Association should purchase its own equipment which was not particularly expensive, and the question of who operated it would be addressed at the time.

(b) Mike Boucher stated that he had contact with an equality group on social media who were in favour of men and women running the same distances together in the same races and clearly, we fit the bill and he would try to exploit this connection to increase the number of runners in our races.

Geoff Newton
Gen Sec