

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2025/26

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 11 April 2025.

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

President:	Charles Dickinson (Belgrave Harriers)
Hon. Gen. Sec:	Geoff Newton (Bournemouth AC)
Hon Treasurer:	Ruth Pearson (Striders of Croydon)
Hon. Race Sec.:	Mike Boucher (Aldershot Farnham & District AC)
Hon. Webmaster:	Alan Mead (Belgrave Harriers)
Hon. "Auditor":	Kate Haynes (Aldershot Farnham & District AC)

Accounts are subject to independent inspection, not full audit.

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Lloyd Park, Croydon on 22 November 2025, local organisation by Striders of Croydon and Croydon Harriers. There were 179 finishers, (181 started).

Men

1. Ed Chuck	Dulwich Runners	26.48
2. Gavin Eccles	Belgrave Harriers	26.54
3. Jack Ramm	Dulwich Runners	27.08

Women

1. Molly Smith	Herne Hill H	29.33
2. George Bruivels	Aldershot F&D	31.31
3. Saron Haileselese	Belgrave H	32.22

U20 Men

1. Joao Otto de Sousa	Aldershot F & D	29.16
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U20 Women

1. Jessica Booth	South London H	39.05
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Men's Teams (4 Score)

1. Belgrave Harriers	19 pts
2. Dulwich Runners	58 pts
3. Aldershot F&D	71 pts

Women's Teams (4 Score)

1. Belgrave H	29 pts
2. Kent AC	36 pts
3. South London H	63 pts

Men's Teams (8 Score)

1. Belgrave H	70 pts
2. Guildford & G AC	285 pts
3. Dulwich Runners	349 pts

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Wimbledon Common on 20 December 2025 hosted by Belgrave H. There were 280 finishers. (282 started)

Men

1. Alex Howard	Tonbridge AC	40.12
2. Jamie Mc Donald	Tonbridge AC	40.40
3. Noah Armitage-Hookes	Kent AC	40.4

Women

1. Molly Smith	Herne Hill H	44.14
2. Phoebe Barker	Tonbridge AC	45.26
3. Emily Bradley	Belgrave H	46.43

M40 Ben Cole Tonbridge AC 41.47

W40 Sue Swaine Herne Hill H 53.38

M50 Simon Coombes Herne Hill H 44.32 W50 Sophie Biggs Stragglers RC 52.08

M60 Mark Tennyson G&G AC 50.47 W60 Pamela McHutchon Stragglers RC 66.00

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 51pts
2. Belgrave Harriers 105pts
3. Guildford & G AC 161pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Belgrave H 49 pts
2. Herne Hill Harriers 94 pts
3. Kent AC 134 pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 247 pts
2. Belgrave Harriers 381 pts
3. Guildford & G AC 648 pts

Finding a suitable venue for our races gets ever more difficult as councils and landowners impose ever more stringent restrictions. That said it is usually possible to find somewhere by thinking outside the box. I recently ran on a cross-country league course on a private farming estate. Presumably a fee was paid for the land use.

Anyway, this year we suffered a double whammie due to land permission problems. The 5 Mile Race was originally scheduled for Farthing Down and when that fell through, we settled on Hurst Green. That never got off the ground and with the race date getting closer, postponement or cancellation were a real possibility. Fortunately, Striders of Croydon and Croydon Harriers came to the rescue ([Big Thank You](#)), and put on the race at Lloyd Park not to mention the popular race HQ with licenced bar. However, a lower turnout was inevitable due to a clash with the Kent Masters and to the late finalising of the arrangements.

Fortunately, no such problems were experienced with Wimbledon Common, the venue for the Championship Race and a better turnout was had although not quite up to pre-covid levels at that popular venue.

The time is approaching for me to hand over the general secretary's job to someone else. I could do a better job if I did not live 2 to 3 hours drive away from the action. Also, I am an out of date old dinosaur. My predecessor used to communicate to the clubs with photocopied hand-written notes sent by Royal Mail. I now use emails with attachments. However, I have no wish to get involved in social media and my tech expertise is stuck in the early naughties.

Geoff Newton Hon Gen Sec