

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2024/25

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 12 April 2024.

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

President:	Mark Tennyson (Guildford & Godalming AC)
Hon. Gen. Sec:	Geoff Newton (Bournemouth AC)
Hon Treasurer:	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)

Responsibility for obtaining medals was transferred from Don Turner to Geoff Newton.
Accounts are subject to independent inspection, not full audit.

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at West Horsley Place on 23 November 2024, local organisation by Guildford & Godalming AC. There were 217 finishers.

Men

1. Mack Downey	Belgrave Harriers	26.33
2. Philip Wicks	Belgrave Harriers	26.36
3. Findlay Dyer	Belgrave Harriers	26.37

Women

1. Georgie Bruinvels	AFD AC	30.20
2. Emily Bradley	Belgrave H	31.14
3. Emily Robbins	Belgrave H	31.57

U20 Men

1. Dylan Clarke	Aldershot F & D	29.01
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U20 Women

None entered.

Men's Teams (4 Score)

1. Belgrave Harriers	13 pts
2. Kent AC	25 pts
3. Kent AC 'B'	65 pts

Women's Teams (4 Score)

1. Belgrave H	23 pts
2. Kent AC	44 pts
3. Guildford & G AC	73 pts

Men's Teams (8 Score)

1. Kent AC	90 pts
2. Belgrave H	93 pts
3. Guildford & G AC	322 pts

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Somerhill School, Tonbridge on 21 December 2024 hosted by Tonbridge AC. There were 208 finishers.

Men

1. Cole Gibbens	Tonbridge AC	43.21
2. Stuart Brown	Tonbridge AC	43.39
3. Findlay Dyer	Belgrave H	43.49

Women

1. Georgie Bruinvels	AFD	50.33
2. Rachel Brown	Belgrave H	51.26
3. Emily Robbins	Belgrave H	51.40

M40 Micah Evans Blackheath & B 48.46

W40	Madelaine Armstrong-Plieth	62.14		
M50	Steve Winder Epsom & Ewell H	49.54	W50	Tina Oldershaw Tonbridge AC 63.55
M60	Mark Tennyson G&G AC	56.29	W60	Tara Taylor Tunbridge Wells H 64.28

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 27pts
2. Belgrave Harriers 95pts
3. Tonbridge AC "B" 112pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Belgrave H 40 pts
2. Dulwich Runners 126 pts
3. Tunbridge Wells Harriers 145 pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1. Tonbridge AC 139 pts
2. Tunbridge Wells Harriers 921 pts
3. Epsom & Ewell Harriers 1337 pts

The 5 Mile race took place under the dual handicaps of atrocious weather conditions and the presence of a "Country Fair" at the venue, meaning that when we most needed an undercover Race HQ we could not have one. Fortunately, everyone, runners and officials alike, were up to the challenge.

No such problems at the Championship Race at Somerhill School. A proper cross-country course here, all hills and mud.

Last year I drew attention to the hard work of Mike Boucher, Kate Haynes and Ruth Pearson who carry out the most important work of the Association. I should also like to thank our Webmaster Alan Mead for the excellent SOTCCA website. Comprehensive and up to date.

Exhaustive enquiries have failed to locate the cup for the individual male winner of the 5 mile race, which has not been seen for several years. A new perpetual trophy, the Don Turner Cup has been acquired to replace the missing silverware. In his later years Don was not really a fan of perpetual trophies, but I thought there needed to be something to recognise the immense service he gave to the Association in the roles of Treasurer and Race Secretary and other roles over many years.

It was Don's influence which initially led to the winning female team in the Championship being awarded a small trophy to keep, rather than holding a larger perpetual trophy for just a year like all our other trophies. However, the recipient clubs and the person tasked with buying a new shield every year prefer a large perpetual trophy. The new trophy, like the old small trophies is named in memory of the late Derek Crookes, SOTCCA Secretary for 31 years amongst his many other admin. posts in Athletics.

I was just about to send out documents for the AGM when I heard the very sad news of Don's passing. In addition to playing a key role in the running the Association, Don was a timekeeper at the highest level, right up to the Olympics, and a prolific organiser of track meetings and road races in Surrey. Don held the position of treasurer, auditor and other administrative post in other athletic bodies. As a competitor he was a long distance runner at a decent club standard. He will be sorely missed.

Geoff Newton Hon Gen Sec