

**SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION, REPORT FOR 2010/2011**

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 10 September 2010

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

President:	Paul Mitchell (South London Harriers)	
Vice Presidents:	Matthew Hyett (Kingston & Poly)	
	Rachel Disley (Thames Hare & Hounds)	
Hon. Gen. Sec.	Geoff Newton (Tadworth AC)	
Hon. Treasurer	Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)	
Hon. Race Sec.	Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)	
Hon. Asst. Sec	Archives & History	Brian Boulton (Cambridge Harriers)
	Trophies	Brian Boulton (Cambridge Harriers)
Hon. Auditors	Sarah Smith (Ranelagh Harriers)	
Elected Committee:	Sarah Smith (Ranelagh Harriers)	

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Wimbledon Common on 27 November. Special thanks are due to Belgrave for hosting the event under difficult circumstances, in the absence of other volunteers. There were 208 finishers, precisely the same as the previous year.

**Men**

1.	John Gilbert Kent AC	26.50
2.	Chris Busaileh Herne Hill	27.39
3.	Hugh Evans Tonbridge AC	28.00

**Women**

1.	Suzie Richards HHH	31.48
2.	Emily Alden Epsom & E	32.03
3.	Beckie Woodland SLH	32.16

**U20 Men**

1	Mitchell White Bracknell AC	28.08
2.	David Lewis Reading AC	30.02
3.	Seb Harding Tonbridge AC	33.33

**Men's Teams (4 Score)**

1.	Herne Hill H	32 pts
2.	Kent AC	40 pts
3.	Bracknell AC	58 pts

**Women's teams (4 score)**

1.	Thames H & H	42 pts
2.	Herne Hill H	47 pts
3.	South London H	60 pts

**Men's Teams (8 Score)**

1.	Herne Hill H	139 pts
2.	Kent AC	186 pts
3.	Tonbridge AC	389 pts

4. **Championship Race 7 ½ Miles**

This was held at Farthing Downs on 19 March, hosted by South London H. There were 79 Finishers.

**Men**

1.	Chris Busaileh Herne Hill H	41.40
2.	Alan Barnes Herne Hill H	42.02
3.	Kieron White Herc Wim	43.02

**Women**

1.	Emily Alden Epsom & Ewell	47.28
2.	Zoe West Epsom & Ewell	50.50
3.	Ruth Hutton SLH	53.12

M40	Charles Lound Dulwich R	45.31
M50	Glen Quarton SLH	46.43
M60	Stephen Robinson Tadworth	78.06

W40	Ruth Hutton SLH	53.12
W50	Pam Iannella	55.02
W60	Jane Davies	56.43

**PTO**

## Men 's Teams (6 score)

1. South London Harriers	132 pts
2. Dulwich Runners	154 pts
3. Tadworth AC	204 pts

## Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Brighton & Hove AC	85 pts
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Men's Teams (12 Score) : No team finished 12 runners

**Comment:**

Numbers in the 5 mile race were identical to last year. Numbers in the Championship race were very low, because it had to be rearranged to mid-March where it inevitably suffered many fixture clashes, with fixtures diverse as half marathons and the European Veterans Indoor T&F Championships. There have however been a number of encouraging signs, including a number of clubs re-joining the Association. Fixture congestion remains a problem. It will help if member clubs can persuade their Counties and County Leagues hold their fixtures on recommended dates.

It is still a matter of some concern that there is a shortage of clubs volunteering to put on the 5 Mile Team Race, and as a result the burden of staging races is not shared fairly around the total club membership and races are typically held on courses which are also heavily used for other races. Boring! Hosting the race is not a particularly onerous task as the Association handles race entries and provides most of the officials on the day. It is not getting easier to find suitable venues, but sometimes I feel clubs try harder to find reasons for not hosting a race than they try to overcome difficulties in finding a venue.

There remains a lack of people volunteering to join our committee or even attend the AGM, although there are encouraging signs that younger people are becoming interested.

The Championship race was unavoidably postponed as heavy snowfall on the day disrupted travel and made conditions hazardous. However it is worth noting that Reigate Priory were able to mount a full programme of races at their Holly Run meeting the next day, with some course modifications to avoid sledging runs. My opinion is that with cross country, unlike road races, if the vast majority of competitors and officials are able to travel to the venue it should generally be possible to put on a race, unless blizzard conditions are forecast for the time of the race. Competitors wearing proper cross country footwear should be able to cope with anything underfoot, and if in doubt it is usually possible to alter or shorten courses to allow for conditions on the day. There is a tendency to give in to difficulties rather than work round them which I have referred to earlier in this report.

There was a problem with the results of the 5 Mile Women's race as the otherwise eligible winner had not been entered due to an oversight and ran under a different name. Unfortunately this was only discovered after the day. Strictly speaking this should have meant disqualification of the individual and the team; however the logistics of redistribution of individual and team medals would have been a nightmare and deep down we feel that races should be won on the course rather than in the office. A similar problem occurred in the Championship Race when the M40 medal was initially allocated to a senior runner under the name of an M40. Fortunately although the miscreants kept quiet on this occasion it was noted on the day by someone from another club. We will be less forgiving in future, particularly with the clubs concerned. Personally I am coming round to opinion that on the day entry should be allowed, but at a cost of £5 or £10 per head as opposed to the £1 per head pre entry.

The website is making steady progress and will become more important as the years go by. Our thanks go out to Alan Mead for undertaking this major task.

Geoff Newton  
Hon. General Secretary