

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION, REPORT FOR 2013/2014

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 3 May 2013

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

President:	John Snowden (formerly Surrey AC)
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)

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Streatham Common on 23 November 2013. There were 227 finishers.

Men

1.	Paskar Owor Belgrave H	26.50
2.	John Gilbert Kent AC	26.53
3.	Paul Rodgers AFD	27.54

Women

1.	Karen Ellison Herne Hill H	33.53
2.	Rachel Coe-O'Brien SLH	34.14
3.	Keri Mackenzie Belgrave H	34.21

U20 Men

1	Peter Chambers Croydon Harriers	28.35
2.	Sean Molloy Tonbridge AC	29.25
3.	Chris Lloyd Tonbridge AC	29.30

Men's Teams (4 Score)

1.	Kent AC	23 pts
2.	Herne Hill H	42 pts
3.	Tonbridge AC	65 pts

Women's teams (4 score)

1.	Belgrave H	29 pts
2.	South London H	53 pts
3.	Thames H & H	58 pts

Men's Teams (8 Score)

1.	Kent AC	126 pts
2.	Herne Hill H	182 pts
3.	Aldershot F&D	278 pts

4. **Championship Race 7 ½ Miles**

This was held at Wimbledon Common on 21 December 2013, hosted by Belgrave H. There were 260 finishers.

Men

1.	Paskar Owor Belgrave Harriers	42.02
2.	John Gilbert Kent AC	42.28
3.	Henry Pearce Tonbridge AC	43.07

Women

1.	Deirdre McDermott Tonbridge	50.15
2.	Samantha Amend Belgrave H	52.23
3.	Claire Day Thames H & H	52.45

M40	Chris Greenwood Kent AC	45.19
M50	Knut Hegvold Belgrave H	50.23
M60	Walter Hill Crawley AC	58.17

W40	Ola Balme Dulwich R	57.46
W50	Chris Costiff SLH	60.15
W60	---	

Men's Teams (6 score)

1.	Tonbridge AC	97 pts
2.	Kent AC	106 pts
3.	Herne Hill H	128 pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1.	Belgrave H	80 pts
2.	Tonbridge AC	155 pts
3.	Dulwich R	156 pts

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Men's Teams (12 Score)

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| 1. Kent AC | 466 pts |
| 2. Herne Hill H | 527pts |
| 3. Hercules Wimbledon | 594 pts |

Comment:

Race numbers were significantly up in both races and the championship race in particular, which is encouraging. The improved turnout for the Championship race may be due in part to holding the race on the 4th Saturday in December instead of the third Saturday. This is unfortunately not always a viable option given the proximity of Christmas. I also wrote an article about the Association and its races. This was published in Athletics Weekly shortly before the start of the 2013 cross country season and this also helped raise the profile of the races. We did gain or regain a few new clubs, most notably Dartford H who finished a creditable 4th in the men's championship race

Fixture congestion will remain a problem for the foreseeable future. Quite simply there are no free weekends in the calendar. Although the later Championship date was I think beneficial overall, avoiding as it did, league races and important open fixtures, it did however clash with an established Mob Match which the organising club did not feel able to reschedule. The turnout for the Championship race might have been even higher but for this.

There is no room for complacency. We need to continually raise the profile of our races, given the competition in a crowded fixture list. The core area of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire, and Hampshire should be capable of sustaining a field of 300-500 for the Championship race, and we are well short of that figure.

The 5 mile race was held at Streatham Common (thanks to HHH), a new venue which was generally appreciated and I look forward to finding another new venue for 2014 if I can arrange this. However arranging a venue for the 5 Mile race is usually the general Secretary's most difficult job.

The proposal before the EGM on 3 May 2013 was passed. This brought forward the AGM from September to the Spring and abolished the committee meeting held in spring and September. The EGM discussions did highlight the need to generally review and update the Rules and Constitution in the light of changed circumstances and it is hoped to tackle this at the next AGM in the spring.

Geoff Newton
Hon. General Secretary