

MINUTES OF AGM & COMMITTEE MEETING, BELGRAVE HALL, 2 May 2014

1. Apologies for absence: G. Biscoe, F. Gilson, M. Kiernan, S. Sandham, J. Snowden
2. Minutes of AGM of 3 May 2013: Accepted
3. Matters arising: None or dealt with elsewhere in these minutes
4. Secretaries Business: The Secretaries report was accepted.

The 2014 Championship race will be provisionally be hosted by South London Harriers on Farthing Downs on 20 December 2014 at 2pm. No host has currently been found for the five mile race. The secretary reported that Tunbridge Wells Harriers had expressed a general interest in hosting this on at least two occasions but to date have not replied when actually asked to confirm for a particular occasion. Tom Richards volunteered to contact Dartford Harriers to see if they would be amenable instead. If these approaches proved fruitless the secretary agreed to chase other clubs such as Blackheath Harriers, Dorking & MV and Thames H&H.

The secretary had written an article on the history of the Association which was published in September 2013. As a result three enquiries were received from potential member clubs. Two of these competed in the Championship Race. The secretary thanked Brian Boulton and Thames H&H for provision of some photographs for the article.

5. Treasurers Report & Business: The treasurer reported that the Association had made a small loss last year. The accounts were presented and provisionally agreed subject to audit. No changes in affiliation fees or race fees were proposed.
6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2014/15

President: Tom Richards, South London Harriers

Tom Richards is ever present helping or officiating at the SOTCCA races and at races and meetings in Surrey generally. He is best known for carrying out engraving of medals for the SOTCCA and the various Surrey County Championships. He has also been an officer for the Southern Counties Vets AC for many years. Before that he was a club stalwart at South London Harriers, running on track, country and road over a variety of distances although not perhaps attaining the high profile of his father.

Secretary: Geoff Newton
Auditor: Sarah Smith
Race Secretary and Treasurer: Don Turner
History & Trophies: Brian Boulton
Life Members: as per handbook

7. The following **Constitutional** rule changes were approved in principle by the meeting, prior to uploading onto the SOTCCA website. In some cases the precise wording may be fine -tuned in discussions between the Secretary and the Webmaster Alan Mead.

Rule 1 to read: "That the Association be called THE SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION and membership of the Association will be open to all EA Affiliated clubs having their HQ south of the River Thames."

Rule 2 to read: "That the object of the Association be to arrange a cross country championship of clubs affiliated to the Association and for any other races for such clubs as the AGM sees fit."

Rule 3 to read: "That the Annual General Meeting of the Association be held in late April or in May, to which each affiliated club may send two delegates. One vote per club is permitted. 28 days notice shall be given of the AGM and items for inclusion on the agenda must be received at least 14 days before the meeting."

Rule 4 to read: "That the management be vested in president, past presidents, hon. secretary, hon. treasurer, assistant hon. secretaries each of whom shall have a vote at the meetings as well as the votes from club representatives at AGM and EGM's. Club officers to be elected at the AGM. Life members may be elected and may attend and vote at meetings".

Rule 5 to read: As previously except that line3 of the rule shall read: "The financial year of the Association shall end on 31 March each year and the annual subscription shall be due and payable on 1st April."

8. The following **General Competition Rule** changes were approved in principle by the meeting, prior to uploading onto the SOTCCA Website. In some cases precise wording may be fine -tuned in discussions between the Secretary and the Webmaster.

Rule 3 to read: "Entries shall be made on the Official Entry Form and must be accompanied by the entry fee. The form shall give the full names and date of birth of the team members (and their address

subject to the discretion of the entries secretary). No one whose name does not appear on the form shall be permitted to compete.”

Rule 4 to read: “Every club intending to compete shall forward with their entry, a description of their club colours. Competitors should wear club colours.”

Rule 5 to be deleted.

9. The following puts into words a change (the abolition of special medals) in **Men’s Championship Competition Rules** agreed in principle at a previous AGM.

Rule 3. To read: “The first three teams of 6 and the first 3 individuals shall receive awards. Awards will also be given to the first man over 40, the first man over 50 and the first man over 60.”

10. The following puts into words the **Women’s Championship Rules** agreed as previous AGM’s.

Rule 1. to read: “The Women’s race shall be run in conjunction with the Men’s race and be held over the same course, with the same entry fees, but scored separately. The first three individuals, the first woman over 35, the first women over 45 and the first woman over 55 shall receive awards.”

Rule 2. To read: “Clubs may enter as many runners as they wish. The first six finishers from a club shall be deemed to be the team for the Derek Crookes Trophy”.

11. The following puts into words a previously agreed change in the **Competition Rules for the Men’s 5 Mile Team Race** (the abolition of County Medals). There are no changes to the rules for the Women’s 5 Mile Team Race

Rule 3. As previously, but omit line 3. referring to County Medals

12. **Dissolution Policy.** This document was passed at a previous AGM but has yet to make into the handbook or Website. This document is too long to be reproduced in full in these minutes, but is available as a separate document. A minor change was agreed at this AGM as follows:

Rule 3.1 to read: “No individual shall benefit financially from the dissolution of the Association.”

13. AOB

Ron Hale proposed that recipients of trophies should sign for them and provide contact details. The meeting was generally in favour but it was felt that the decision whether or not to adopt this procedure should be left to the Assistant Secretary (Trophies) , currently Brian Boulton, as he would have to implement this.

There was some concern expressed on the low attendance of club representatives at meetings with the resultant long term implications for the future running of the Association. (*Whether this is to be interpreted as a lack of interest or a vote of confidence is unclear.*)The business of the Association is mostly carried out by two people of pensionable age and the Association officials at the races are mostly past presidents also of pensionable age. It was agreed that everyone should do what they can to encourage the involvement of younger people and a higher attendance at meetings.

The meeting closed.

Geoff Newton, Hon Gen Sec