

SOUTH OF THE THAMES  
CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

Est. 1893, Affiliated to UKA

**MINUTES OF AGM, BELGRAVE HALL, 28 APRIL 2017**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** D Anderson, M Athawes, S Bass, G Biscoe, A Del Nevo, J Munn, I Wilson
2. **Minutes of AGM of 1 May 2016:** Don Turner disagreed with some details of the secretary's account of the Treasurer's report. The secretary said he would check the relevant documents. Otherwise the minutes were accepted.
3. **Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere:** None
4. **Secretaries Business:** The 2017 Championship Race will be held on Saturday 16 December 2017, at the Wellington Memorial, Aldershot hosted by Aldershot Farnham & District AC. The secretary said that he would use the opportunity to contact clubs in Hampshire and Berkshire, in an attempt to re-ignite their interest in South of the Thames races. Martin Duff offered to provide the secretary with email addresses for clubs in cross country leagues in Sussex, Hampshire and Surrey. The 5 Mile Team Race will be hosted by Kent AC at Beckenham Place Park on 25 or 26 November 2017. Date dependant on choice of race HQ.
5. **Treasurers Report and Business:** The Association's finances were in a healthy state. Provisional accounts were given and approved, subject to audit. The Association made a profit of £632.88 despite unusually high land licence fees for the 5 Mile race. (*This was due in part to the new higher race entry fee.*) He had now used up his stock of medals, so there would be significant expenditure on medals in the coming year.
6. **Election of Officers for 2015 / 16:**

**President:** Martin Duff, AFD AC. Martin was a prominent, successful runner who was a member of strong Reading AC teams which had success in South of England and National XC Championships and they won various team medals in both the SOTCCA 5 Mile and Championship races over the years. He won many individual championships at a county level. As a veteran runner, he had much success in the M40 and M45 age groups, the highlights being winning the World M40 Veteran Marathon Championship in 1987 and European M40 5,000m championships in 1986. He has been a major contributor to Athletics Weekly since 1983 and more recently has helped out at SOTCCA races, most notably in working out results. He is current secretary of the Surrey Cross Country League. His maternal grandfather medalled in the North of the Thames XC Championships and was GB reserve for the marathon in 1908 Olympic Games.

General Secretary:	Geoff Newton, Tadworth AC
Race Secretary and Treasurer:	Don Turner, Epsom & Ewell H
History and Trophies:	Brian Boulton, Cambridge H
Auditor:	To be arranged

Life Members:

As per handbook

- 7. Cut off times for SOTCCA Races:** The possibility of setting a cut off time for the races was raised in AOB at the 2016 AGM and it was agreed to make a decision at the 2017 AGM. In the absence of other proposals, the secretary suggested a cut off of 1 hour for the 5 mile race and 1 hour 30 minutes for the Championship race. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that there was not a currently a serious problem and that we would not set a fixed cut off time provided that the situation did not get worse. Problems were more associated with delays in working out team results, rather than with hardships on the marshals. However, it was agreed the race prospectus would suggest that the races were not suitable for runners likely to take more than 1 hour for the 5 mile race and 1 hour 40 minutes for the championship race. Clubs would be given one disc sheet / envelope to cover their A Team and another to cover "B" and subsequent teams to help reduce the delays to the calculation of team awards.
- 8. Age Groups for Female Veteran Runners:** A decision made at a 2014 EGM, to change the female veteran age groups from 40, 50, 60 to 35, 45 and 55 has proved to be controversial. Firstly, because the 2014 EGM was called to update the SOTCCA rules to match our current practice, not to change our practice. Proposed changes in practice should have been flagged up in the EGM agenda. Secondly because there was a general feeling that the rules should be the same for men and women, as this has been our guiding principle since we allowed women into our races. This appears to be one of the attractions of our races to female runners and the numbers of female runners in our races has been increasing steadily year on year. The lower limit for female veteran runners was originally set when women became eligible to run longer distances in the distant past because of a shortage of older female runners, not because of a lack of quality, as the exploits of the likes of Jo Pavey and Joyce Smith has proven over the years. Now that female veteran runners are more numerous, the age group situation is increasingly being equalised with men, either by lowering the limit for men or by raising the limit for women. It was unanimously agreed that we should change our rules back to 40, 50 and 60 for the female veteran age groups like FRA and SEAA for example.
- 9. AOB 1.** The usual question of whether there would be another printed edition of the handbook was raised. As always, the answer is no, because of the cost, the small circulation and the fact that it becomes out of date so quickly. Reasonable progress had been made with the SOTCCA website which it was hoped would eventually cover everything in the handbook and more, and be more up to date. Websites are far more accessible than the handbook.
- 10. AOB 2.** Whilst item 8. was being discussed, the question of whether there should be an M70 medal was raised. The secretary declined to comment as he had a vested interest in the subject. A brief discussion indicated that the numbers involved did not probably justify this at the present time. *(In any case the item did not appear on the Agenda, so could not be voted on.)*