

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2017/2018

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 28 April 2017.

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

President: Martin Duff (Aldershot, Farnham & District AC)

Hon. Gen. Sec: Geoff Newton (Tadworth AC)

Hon Treasurer: Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)

Hon. Race Sec.: Don Turner

Hon. Asst. Sec. Archives & History: Brian Boulton (Cambridge Harriers)

Hon. Asst. Sec. Trophies: Brian Boulton

Hon. Auditor: Sarah Smith

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Beckenham Place Park on 25 November 2017, hosted by Kent AC. There were 264 finishers.

Men

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------|
| 1. Paskar Owor | Belgrave H | 27.39 |
| 2. Jordan Weaver | Kent AC | 27.40 |
| 3. Chris Greenwood | Kent AC | 27.49 |

Women

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| 1. Georgie Bruinvels | AFD | 31.32 |
| 2. Amy Clements | Kent AC | 32.48 |
| 3. Ella Newton | HHH | 34.00 |

U20 Men

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1. Noah Armitage-Hookes | Kent AC | 28.32 |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|

U20 Women

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|
| 1. Ella Newton | HHH | 34.00 |
|----------------|-----|-------|

Men's Teams (4 Score)

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1. Kent AC | 23 pts |
| 2. Belgrave H | 29 pts |
| 3. Tonbridge AC | 64 pts |

Women's Teams (4 Score)

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Kent AC | 21pts |
| 2. Kent AC 'B' | 65pts |
| 3. Herne Hill H | 75pts |

Men's Teams (8 Score)

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Kent AC | 105 pts |
| 2. Kent AC 'B' | 195pts |
| 3. Tonbridge AC | 261pts |

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Wellesley Woodlands, Aldershot on 16 December hosted by Aldershot, Farnham & District AC. There were 229 finishers.

Men

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| 1. John Gilbert | Kent AC | 36.58 |
| 2. George Duggan | Tonbridge AC | 37.07 |
| 3. John Sanderson | G & G | 37.09 |

Women

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------|
| 1. Sophie Harris | Belgrave H | 42.31 |
| 2. Nicole Taylor | Tonbridge AC | 43.14 |
| 3. Georgie Bruinvels | AFD | 43.39 |

M40 Neil Boniface Crawley AC 38.28 W40 Mary James South London H 44.32

M50 Mike Trees Belgrave H 43.40 W50 Sue Mc Donald SLH 49.02

M60 Austin Soane AFD 48.36 W60 Judith Carder Brighton & H 56.40

Men's Teams (6 Score)

1. Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 53pts
2. Tonbridge AC 107pts
3. Kent AC 135pts

Women's Teams (6 Score)

1. Kent AC 114pts
2. Belgrave H 123pts
3. South London H 144pts

Men's Teams (12 Score)

1. Aldershot Farnham & Dist AC 293pts
2. Kent AC 422pts
3. The Stragglers 1313pts

After a steady year on year increase, the number of runners in both our races were down on the previous two years. This is a shame, as the absent runners missed out on two excellent courses.

The drop in the number of runners at the Championships was not unexpected. Location, location, location. Numbers tend to fall away the further from Wimbledon Common one goes. However, the essence of cross country running is the diversity of courses and for those like me who think that cross country is not only about running on gravel, I like to move the fixture around our catchment area. More importantly this is also fairer on our host clubs and gives those who live further away from London an occasional local fixture. Knowing that Aldershot would be too far for some (gone are the days when clubs would travel from Bristol and even Cardiff) I pestered most of the clubs in Hampshire, Berkshire and west Surrey who were not already affiliated to our Association with emails, in an attempt to regain some of the ground lost to fixture congestion over the years. In the end only four clubs responded and of those, only Blackwater Valley Runners and Winchester & District AC sent runners to the championships. I hope that they enjoyed the experience and will join us again in future years.

Numbers were also down in the 5 mile race, due to an unexpected clash with a Kent League Race. I try to warn off the various cross-country leagues from our usual dates of the 3rd Saturday in December and the last Saturday in November but was unsuccessful on this occasion. I assumed wrongly that Kent AC would know about the Kent League (they run in the Surrey League) and so only found out about the clash when it was too late to move the race date.

I should like to thank our host clubs Aldershot, F& D AC and Kent AC for their efforts in providing courses and facilities for our races and Don Turner for dealing with the important work of finding officials, sorting out entries, results etc not to mention his work as Treasurer. However, Don and myself are old dinosaurs, still living in the 20th century. Online banking, social media like Facebook are a closed book to us. Whilst we are prepared to carry on whilst our health allows, (my predecessor died when he was younger than I am now, and Don is 8 years older than me), it may be that there are younger people out there who would help bring us into the 21st century.

Finally, the Association relies heavily on keeping in contact with the member clubs. Many clubs change their contact (be they called team manager, cross country secretary or team captain) on an almost yearly basis. It is vital that we are informed of these changes as often the new incumbent is not aware of our races and the connection between the Association and the club can be lost and their membership and participation in our races can cease.

Geoff Newton, Gen Sec.