

Low-key opening to the Championship

A very low-key opening to the National 6-Stage Relay Championship took place at Crystal Palace in 1969. Just nine runners lined up under a bridge on the motor racing circuit with no more than a couple of dozen spectators present, but over the years the race was to develop to become one of the most keenly fought road running team competitions. A Belgrave team was present that day at the 'Palace' and, just coming towards the end of a flourishing distance running era, they were rewarded with a set of bronze medals. The City of Stoke men romped away with a victory which began a successful four-year winning streak for them, before it was their turn to slip down the running rankings. No other team was to match Stoke's sequence of wins until the next century when the Belgrave runners returned from fallow years to take five titles in a row from 2001 to 2005.

For the first 25 years, it was the custom for the race to be moved around the country, but it was some time before the Southern clubs could be tempted to travel 'up North' in force. The Bels didn't take part again until 1974 and 1975 when, with Gordon Biscoe, Clive Shippen, and Bill Lucas's expertise, the race was held from Belgrave Hall on the roads around the South Side of Wimbledon Common. Some believed that the event might make its permanent home in London SW19, but in 1976 it was back to the Lancashire town of Southport on Merseyside, the spiritual home of the Northern Counties AA, founded there in 1879.

The 'National 6-Stage' benefitted from an appearance by a Belgrave squad only once more in the next two decades – and that was on another fleeting return to Crystal Palace when there was a near revolt by the Northern and Midland clubs when they found that far from the normal distance of close to 4 miles, the course was a mere 2.6 miles, twice around the motor racing circuit; they wanted a third lap added. 1985 saw another controversy when the race went to Manchester, and of the qualifying teams five from the South and three from the Midlands failed to show up.

A first visit to Sutton Park

In 1986 the race was due to be held at Birmingham University but at the last minute was switched to Sutton Park where an already well-established 3 miles and 8 yards course was used. Being a central location, many people said, "why not always hold the race here?" The race returned to this venue in 1989 and 1992, and then from 1995 onwards, Sutton Park finally became the event's permanent home.

Belgrave's poor attendance at the National event during all of this period wasn't just down to the Club's reluctance to travel, but the fact that teams entering now needed to be invited after a suitable qualifying performance had been posted in the newly instigated area events. The first Southern Counties AAA 6-Stage Relay took place in 1979 but for this and every other year until 1996, Belgrave Harriers totally ignored the fixture. The Club's local rivals always entered, and teams travelling from as far away as Bideford and Exeter did likewise, but the Bels couldn't seem to muster enough enthusiasm to join the scores of other clubs as the qualifying 'Southern' race grew and went to Crystal Palace, Thameside and then found a regular home at Rushmoor Arena near Aldershot, a perfect venue that had been built by the British Army in 1923 for The Aldershot Military Tattoo.

After a quarter of a century the Bels take it seriously

A newly appointed Belgrave team manager, in 1995, dreamed of emulating the achievements of some of the Midland and Northern clubs such as Tipton, Birchfield, Bingley, Liverpool, and Morpeth; they were always present, and as often as not fighting for the top places on the podium. But the first steps were to constantly support the area races; to build a tradition whereby runners could measure themselves against others from previous seasons; to gain qualification for the 'National' and provide a platform from which winning teams might one day spring. Slowly it worked. In '96 a team placed 16th in the 'Southern', in '97, although the team was not going to close in, there was an insistence that we attend. Two years later the Bels started three teams, finished two, and at last qualified for the 'National'.

After that 'National' at Sutton Park in 1999, *Athletics Weekly* reported:

"... Belgrave getting stronger all the time ... Paul Evans had a fine run on the final stage to gain four places as Belgrave finished 4th. ... This was the first time in many years the Bels have made a major bid to win this race and it was good to see them in action. Mark Miles ... has only been back in training for a week after injury problems, and Jason Lobo was racing a little over his usual distance, but they showed they have the ability to win medals at this level."

In fact, it was 21 years since Belgrave's previous participation, and 30 years since a serious bid for a win had been attempted. More importantly, for the first time, our talented individuals were beginning to learn the joy of running for each other.

A forward place was maintained the following year, and then golden years were entered, with five consecutive wins from 2001 and two more to follow in 2007 and 2008. In all the Club medalled eleven times in a thirteen-year period; it was a mighty record.

Since 1995 Sutton Park has remained a happy home for the National Road Relays, only once moving away when an outbreak of E. coli was traced to the venue. The Midland and National Championships were cancelled for 2012. However, after much agitation by our own Will Cockerell, the alternative venue of Clumber Park, in Nottinghamshire, a National Trust property, was identified the week before the proposed date for the national event and the race was hastily reinstated at this venue.

The course length at Sutton Park had varied up to and including 2000, due to haphazard positioning of the cone placed to mark the turning point at the far end of the circuit. In 2001 a permanent marker was positioned but it was some distance further out than had recently been the norm, increasing the distance to a measured 5,847 metres, adding something approaching 30 seconds to immediately previous individual times.

In the results that follow, for team performances, the numbers in brackets are the team positions at the end of the individual's stage.

Crystal Palace, S.E. London – stage length two laps of the motor racing circuit, totalling 2.6 miles.

1969 3rd 1:18:25 25 Oct. — Richard Piotrowski 13:03 (3), William Kerr 13:14 (3), Gerry North 12:42 (3), Laurie O'Hara 13:09 (3), Tony Fairclough 13:11 (2), John Thresher 13:06 (3); teams City of Stoke AC 1:17:16, Manchester & District H&AC 1:18:18, Belgrave H 1:18:25; 9 teams started and finished; fastest Mike Turner (Liverpool H&AC) 12:28, 4 North.

Southport, Merseyside – stage length approx. 4 miles.

1970 - - 10 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams City of Stoke AC 1:57:59, Cambridge H 1:58:18; 3 Tipton H 1:58:26. 19 teams started, 18 finished; fastest M. Freary (Bolton United H&AC) 18:54.

1971 - - 16 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams City of Stoke AC 1:57:32, Bolton United H&AC 1:57:52, Sheffield United H 1:58:27; 25 teams started and finished; fastest Mike Turner (Liverpool H&AC) 18:48 (rec.).

Leeds, West Yorkshire – stage length 4 miles 784 yards.

1972 - - 21 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams City of Stoke AC 2:05:26, Liverpool H&AC 2:05:39, Bolton United H&AC 2:05:56; 23 teams started, 21 finished; fastest M. Freary (Bolton United H&AC) 20:10.

Keele, Staffordshire – stage length 3 miles 1,000 yards.

1973 - - 20 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Bolton United H&AC 1:43:03, Birmingham University 1:43:45, Cardiff AAC 1:44:00; 19 teams started, 18 finished; fastest Frank Davies (Liverpool H&AC) 16:49.

Wimbledon Common – stage length approx. 3¾ miles, or 6.035 km.

1974 18th 1:49:16 19 Oct. — Laurie O'Hara 17:35 (12), Gerry North 17:59 (12), Colin Pearson 18:26 (16), Lionel Mann 18:15 (14), Pat O'Connor 18:15 (17), John Bicourt 18:48 (18); teams Liverpool H&AC 1:44:08, Invicta AC 1:44:50, Cardiff AAC 1:45:04; 25 teams started, 24 finished; fastest David Black (Small Heath H) 16:51.

1975 24th 1:51:35 18 Oct. — Colin Pearson 18:45 (27), John Stow 17:45 (20), Alan Black 19:26 (24), Pat O'Connor 18:00 (24), Leo Coy 19:10 (25), Bill Weller 18:29 (24); teams Liverpool H&AC 1:44:10, Shaftesbury H 1:44:47, Cardiff AAC 1:45:11; 31 teams started and finished; fastest Bernie Ford (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 16:46.

Southport, Merseyside – stage length approx. 4 miles.

1976 - - 16 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Liverpool H&AC 1:57:16, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:57:53, Airdale & Spen Valley AC 1:58:12; 23 teams started, 22 finished; fastest Steve Kenyon (Bolton United H&AC) 18:34.

Stanton & Staveley Ironworks, Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire – stage length 3¾ miles.

1977 - - 15 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Tipton H 1:45:40, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:45:46, Airdale & Spen Valley AC 1:46:08; 24 teams started, 23 finished; fastest Steve Kenyon (Bolton United H&AC) 17:03.

Crystal Palace, S.E. London – stage length 2.6 miles.

1978 28th 1:23:58 14 Oct. — Dennis Brown 13:12 (19); John Bicourt 13:25 (25), James Rimmer 13:58 (25), Tony Binda 14:28 (26), Simon Holmes 14:20 (26), Allan Callow 14:35 (28), teams Cambridge & Coleridge AC 1:16:55.6, Shaftesbury H 1:17:27, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:17:31; 30 teams started and finished; fastest Steve Kenyon (Bolton United H&AC) 12:20.

Southport, Merseyside – stage length approx. 4 miles.

1979 - - 20 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Bingley H&AC 1:56:30, Gateshead H&AC 1:57:13, Tipton H 1:58:01; 18 teams started, 16 finished; fastest Steve Binns (Bingley H&AC) 18:27.

Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire – stage length 3¾ miles.

1980 - - 18 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Tipton H 1:44:11, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:45:29, Bolton United H&AC 1:46:00; 22 teams finished; fastest Steve Binns (Bingley H&AC) 16:54.

Crystal Palace, S.E. London – stage length 3.9 miles (presumably three laps of motor racing circuit).

1981 - - 24 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:57:36, Invicta AC 1:58:46, Tipton H 1:59:37; 18 teams finished; fastest Bernie Ford (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 19:04.

Derby – stage length unknown.

1982 - - 23 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Tipton H 1:54:35, Derby & County AC 1:54:55, Bingley H&AC 1:55:00; 24 teams started, 22 finished; fastest Chris Woodhouse (Derby & County AC) 18:27.

Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire – stage length 3¾ miles.

1983 - - 22 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Shaftesbury H 1:43:11, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:43:21, Gateshead H&AC 1:44:28; 29 teams started and finished; fastest Mike McLeod (Elswick H.) 16:31.

Thamesmead, S.E. London – stage length 3.4 miles.

1984 - - 20 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Stretford AC 1:38:32, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:38:49, Tipton H 1:38:54; 30 teams started, 28 finished; fastest Tony Milovsorov (Tipton H.) 15:54.

Heaton Park, Manchester – stage length unknown.

1985 - - 21 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Gateshead H&AC 1:34:28, Tipton H 1:35:59, Stretford AC 1:36:09; 22 teams started, 21 finished; fastest Steve Anders (St Helen's AC) 15:18.

Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham – stage length 3 miles 8 yards, or 4.835 km.

1986 - - 18 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Gateshead H&AC 1:24:27, Tipton H 1:24:50, Stretford AC 1:25:20; 28 teams started, 27 finished; fastest Roger Hackney (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 13:33.

Crystal Palace, S.E. London – stage length approx. 6 km (course shortened due to fallen trees).

1987 - - 17 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Gateshead H&AC 1:45:40, Stretford AC 1:46:31, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:46:50; 26 teams started, 25 finished; fastest Roger Hackney (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 17:01.

Moorways Stadium, Derby – stage length unknown.

1988 - - 15 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Swansea H 2:26:05, Tipton H 2:26:07, Birchfield H 2:26:20; 32 teams started and finished; fastest Mike Cadman (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC) 23:45.

Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham – stage length described as 3.7 miles, but the times do not tie up with the distance; in all probability considerably shorter.

1989 - - 21 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Stretford AC 1:41:38, Tipton H 1:41:48, Bristol AC 1:42:05; 32 teams started and finished: Fastest: Nick Rose (Bristol AC) 16:15.

Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot – stage length 5.910 km.

1990 - - 27 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Bingley H&AC 1:47:19, Tipton H 1:48:07, Stretford AC 1:48:17; 38 teams started and finished; fastest Steve Binns (Bingley H&AC) 17:12.

Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire – stage length unknown.

1991 - - 26 Oct. — 1 Swansea H 1:47:32, Shaftesbury Barnet H 1:48:04, Tipton H 1:48:49; 36 teams started, 35 finished; fastest John Sherban (Shaftesbury Barnet H.) 17:06.

Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham – stage length unknown.

1992 - - 24 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Tipton H 1:41:15, Bingley H&AC 1:41:48, Copeland AC 1:42:34; 45 started and finished; fastest J Campbell (Annadale Striders 16:42.

Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot – stage length 5.910 km.

1993 - - 23 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Blackheath H 1:46:25, Cannock & Stafford AC 1:47:08, Swansea H 1:47:30; 47 teams finished. Fastest Keith Cullen (Chelmsford AC) 17:08.

Silksworth Sports Complex, Sunderland – stage length about 4 miles.

1994 - - 22 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Bingley H&AC 1:57:15, Blackheath H 1:57:34, Salford H 1:58:29; 44 teams started, 42 finished.

Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham – stage length variable; described as 6 km in 1995 and 3.7 miles (5.954 km) in subsequent years except 1996 when it was “200m shorter” than in previous years. This might have been correct in 1995 but it was unlikely that it was as far as 5.74 km in 1996 and 1997.

1995 - - 21 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Bingley H&AC 1:45:20, Salford H 1:46:05, Tipton H 1:46:32; 59 teams started, 58 finished; fastest Keith Cullen (Chelmsford AC) 16: 34.

1996 - - 26 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Bingley H&AC 1:40:39, Salford H 1:42:08, Birchfield H 1:42:21; 61 teams finished; fastest Richard Nerurkar (Bingley H&AC 16:15. Belgrave qualified in “Southern” but did not send a team.

1997 - - 25 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Birchfield 1:40:36, London Irish AC 1:41:47, Bingley H&AC 1:41:50; 59 teams started, 58 finished; fastest Richard Nerurkar (Bingley H&AC) 16:19.

1998 - - 24 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Birchfield H 1:44:16, Salford H 1:44:45, Tipton H 1:44:56; 57 teams finished. Fastest Rob Whalley (City of Stoke AC) 16:57.

1999 4th 1:44:37 30 Oct. — teams Paul Freary 17:21 (15), Jason Lobo 17:50 (15), Lee Hurst 17:36 (13), Mark Miles 17:46 (10), Spencer Barden 17:14 (8), Paul Evans 16:50 (4). 1 Cardiff AC 1:42:46, Tipton H 1:43:26, Birchfield H 1:43:33; 74 teams started, 73 finished; fastest Christian Stephenson (Cardiff AC) 16:28, 10 Evans.

2000 6th 1:47:36 28 Oct. — Jason Lobo 18:34 (39), Charles Herrington 17:57 (32), Lee Hurst 18:19 (24), Spencer Barden 17:03 (13), Yacin Yusuf 17:40 (9), Alaster Stewart 18:03 (6); teams Morpeth H&AC 1:44:14, Tipton H 1:44:21, Birchfield H 1:46:35; 61 teams finished; fastest Mark Hudspith (Morpeth H&AC) 16:42, =6 Barden.

Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham – standardized stage length 5.847 km.

2001 1st 1:45:28 27 Oct. — Lee Hurst 17:49 (12), Paul Freary 17:30 (2), Stephen Sharp 17:26 (1), Kassa Tadesse 17:28 (1), Alaster Stewart 17:46 (1), Spencer Barden 17:29 (1); teams Belgrave H 1:45:28, Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC 1:45:32, Cardiff AAC 1:46:31; 65 teams started, 64 finished; fastest Sam Haughian (Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC 16:54, =10 Sharp.

2002 1st 1:44:24 26 Oct. — Richard Ward 17:48 (10), Stephen Sharp 17:31 (3), Spencer Barden 17:12 (1), Allen Graffin 17:15 (1), Mark Miles 17:08 (1), David Anderson 17:30 (1); teams Belgrave H 1:44:24, Morpeth H&AC 1:46:24, Birchfield H 1:46:52; 68 teams started, 64 finished inc. 1 n/s; fastest Chris Thompson (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 16:53, =3 Miles, 5 Barden, 6 Graffin.

2003 1st 1:45:22 25 Oct. — Paul Freary 17:26 (3), David Anderson 17:14 (1), Spencer Barden 17:25 (1), Mark Miles 17:09 (1), Martin Dent 18:28 (1), Stephen Sharp 17:40 (1); teams Belgrave H 1:45:22, Salford H 1:46:21, Bedford & County AC 1:47:21; 67 teams started, 62 finished; fastest Chris Davies (Telford AC) 16:25, 4 Miles, 5 Anderson.

2004	1st	1:44:35	23 Oct. — Kevin Nash 17:44 (13), Jonathan Blackledge 17:41 (4), Spencer Barden 17:18 (1), Stephen Sharp 17:23 (1), David Anderson 17:27 (1), Mark Miles 17:02 (1); teams Belgrave H 1:44:35, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:45:55, Birchfield H 1:46:49; 65 teams started, 63 finished; fastest Chris Thompson (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 16:39, 4 Miles, 7 Barden, 10 Sharp.
2005	1st	1:46:30	22 Oct. — Paul Freary 17:52 (12), Kassa Tadesse 17:20 (2), Alaster Stewart 17:58 (3), Phil Wicks 18:19 (5), Stephen Sharp 17:36 (1), Spencer Barden 17:25 (1). Incomplete B team — Will Cockerell 18:34 (41), Kevin Nash 18:02 (23), Peter Willis 18:59 (29), Lee Greatorex 19:51 (34), Mark Humphrey 20:12 (37); teams Belgrave H 1:46:30, Morpeth H&AC 1:47:48, Notts AC 1:47:54; 82 teams started, 76 finished; fastest Nick McCormick (Morpeth H&AC) 16:41, 10 Tadesse.
2006	4th	1:47:29	21 Oct. — Stephen Sharp 17:32 (4), Paul Freary 17:55 (5), Phil Wicks 17:52 (4), Kris Gauson 18:40 (8), Simon Jones 17:39 (5), David Anderson 17:51 (4). Incomplete B team — John Kimaiyo 18:44 (45), Malachi Byansi 18:49 (44), Peter Willis 19:29 (44), Mark Humphrey 19:54 (46); teams Newham & Essex Beagles 1:44:46, Tipton H 1:46:24, Bristol & West AC 1:47:01; 77 teams started, 74 finished inc. 1 n/s; fastest Mohamed Farah (Newham & Essex Beagles) 17:03.
2007	1st	1:44:30	20 Oct. — Stephen Sharp 17:18 (4), James Kelly 17:46 (5), Jonathan Blackledge 17:30 (2), Simon Jones 17:33 (2), Mark Miles 17:14 (1), Phil Wicks 17:09 (1).
	38th	1:55:14	'B' team — Mark Pollard 17:56 (28), Will Cockerell 18:44 (35), Neil Speaight 19:09 (36), James Fairbourn 19:31 (39), Malachi Byansi 19:49 (39), David Mason 20:05 (38); teams Belgrave H 1:44:30, Leeds City AC 1:45:20, Newham & Essex Beagles 1:45:55; 83 teams started, 79 finished; fastest Chris Davies (Telford AC) 16:42.
2008	1st	1:45:18	18 Oct. — Stephen Sharp 17:37 (11), Nick Goolab 17:34 (2), Steve Davies 17:40 (5), Simon Jones 17:51 (2), Phil Wicks 17:00 (1), Neil Speaight 17:36 (1).
	35th	1:54:19	'B' team — James Kelly 18:01 (21), Mark Pollard 19:35 (40), Paul Freary 19:09 (39), Graeme Hyett 19:10 (36), Shaun Moralee 19:10 (36), Will Cockerell 19:14 (35); teams Belgrave H 1:45:18, Notts AC 1:45:50, Newham & Essex Beagles 1:45:51; 79 teams started, 72 finished inc. 1 n/s; fastest Andrew Vernon (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 16:49.
2009	2nd	1:44:54	17 Oct. — Stephen Sharp 17:28 (11), Nick Goolab 17:35 (8), Simon Jones 17:43 (3), Daniel Mulhare 17:37 (5), Phil Wicks 17:09 (2), Neil Speaight 17:22 (2).
	29th	1:51:10	'B' team — Steve Davies 17:37 (23), Mark Pollard 18:20 (26), James Kelly 18:05 (18), Paskar Owor 18:14 (16), Will Cockerell 19:20 (20), John Charles 19:34 (29); teams Newham & Essex Beagles 1:43:14, Belgrave H 1:44:54, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:45:05; 87 teams started, 80 finished; fastest Mohamed Farah (Newham & Essex Beagles) 16:33.
2010	4th	1:46:24	16 Oct. — Nick Goolab 17:21 (4), Stephen Sharp 18:05 (5), Steve Davies 18:01 (9), Daniel Mulhare 17:20 (5), Simon Jones 18:02 (5), Paskar Owor 17:35 (4); teams Bedford & County AC 1:45:42, Shettlestone H 1:46:16, Tipton H 1:46:19; 81 teams started, 80 finished inc. 1 n/s; fastest Ryan McLeod (Tipton H.) 17:03.
2011	14th	1:48:57	15 Oct. — James Kelly 17:44 (21), Steve Davies 17:38 (9), Richard Ward 18:17 (13), Mark Pollard 18:48 (17), Paskar Owor 17:29 (13), Will Cockerell 19:01 (14); teams Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:44:51, Birchfield H 1:45:22, Newham & Essex Beagles 1:45:30; 83 teams started, 76 finished; fastest James Wilkinson (Leeds City AC) 16:38.

Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire – stage length approx. 5 km.

2012	3rd	1:31:16	13 Oct. — Matthew Graham 14:57 (11), Mark Pollard 15:37 (11), Steve Davies 15:18 (10), Kris Gauson 15:02 (5), James Kelly 15:18 (4), Paskar Owor 15:04 (3); teams Newham & Essex Beagles 1:30:36, Liverpool H&AC 1:31:07, Belgrave H 1:31:16; 64 teams started, 55 finished; fastest Johnny Mellor (Liverpool H&AC) 14:23.
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Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham – stage length 5.847 km.

2013	2nd	1:46:24	12 Oct. — Steve Davies 18:12 (36), Craig Ruddy 17:50 (21), Paskar Owor 17:49 (13), Phil Wicks 17:27 (8), James Kelly 17:51 (5), Nick Goolab 17:15 (2); teams Sale H Manchester 1:45:56, Belgrave H 1:46:24, Tipton H 1:46:58; 84 teams started, 79 finished inc. 2 ns; fastest Ryan McLeod (Tipton H.) 16:55, 4 Goolab.
2014	10th	1:49:56	4 Oct. — Daniel Mulhare 17:26 (6), Paskar Owor 17:43 (1), Craig Ruddy 17:33 (1), Stephen Trainer 18:28 (2), Gus Upton 18:58 (5), Will Cockerell 19:48 (10); teams Aldershot, Farnham

			& Dist. AC 1:46:48, Highgate H 1:47:25, Sale H Manchester 1:47:54; 80 teams started, 77 finished; fastest Andrew Butchart (Central AC) 17:08; 9 Mulhare.
2015	-	-	3 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Tonbridge AC 1:47:24, Derby & County AC 1:47:29, Central AC 1:47:38; 72 teams started, 68 finished; fastest Andrew Maud (Highgate H.) 17:03.
2016	-	-	8 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Cardiff AAC 1:45:52, Swansea H 1:45:55, Liverpool H&AC 1:46:20; 82 teams started, 79 finished; fastest Andrew Butchart (Central AC) 16:29.
2017	-	-	7 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Swansea H 1:45:16, Tonbridge AC 1:46:30, Lincoln Wellington AC 1:46:34; 85 teams started, 82 finished; fastest Dewi Griffiths (Swansea H.) 16:40.
2018	-	-	6 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Stockport H&AC 1:45:07, Leeds City AC 1:45:32, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:45:40; 77 teams started, 76 finished; fastest Ross Millington (Stockport H.) 16:54.
2019	-	-	6 Oct. — Belgrave did not take part; teams Leeds City AC 1:44:46, Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:45:19, Cambridge & Coleridge AC 1:45:37; 79 teams started, 76 finished. Fastest Marc Scott (Cambridge & Coleridge AC) 16:46.
2020			Race not held due to coronavirus pandemic.
2021	30th	1:52:40	9 Oct. — Neil Wilson 18:47 (58), Tommy Taylor 18:52 (51), Sam Gebreselassie 17:24 (30), Ewan Somerville 19:33 (32), Conall McNally 19:12 (34), Arne Dumez 18:52 (30); teams Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:42:44, Leeds City AC 1:43:47, Shaftesbury Barnet H 1:44:06; 79 teams started, 75 finished; fastest Jack Rowe (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 16:33.
2022	35th	1:52:26	8 Oct. — Steve Gardner 18:28 (50), Sam Gebreselassie 18:05 (43), Neil Wilson 18:34 (41), Jonathan Scott 18:51 (38), Jonny Neville 19:01 (37), Conall Mcnally 18:57 (37); teams Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC 1:43:37; Leeds City AC 1:43:24, Cambridge & Coleridge AC 1:44:04. 81 teams started, 74 finished; fastest Jack Rowe (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC) 16:39.
2023	dsq ¹	1:49:29	7 Oct. — Henry Hart 18:13 (35), Sam Gebreselassie 18:30 (35), Sam Sommerville 18:41 (31), Charlie Rogers 19:09 (33), James Wootton 18:21 (28), Stewart McSweyn 16:35 (17);
	39	1:54:00	'B' team — Findlay Dyer 18:50 (55), Lloyd Kempson 19:12 (58), Eoin Molloy 18:40 (49), Charles Wood 19:04 (45), Conall Whelan 18:48 (43), Conall Mcnally 19:26 (41) teams Leeds City AC 1:44:36, Aldershot Farnham & Dist. AC 1:44:46, Cambridge & Coleridge AC 1:44:52; 77 teams started, 70 finished; fastest Omar Ahmed (Birchfield H.) 16:34.

¹ Last stage runner had not been registered on 1 January as a foreign athlete. Hence the disqualification. The team's time would otherwise have placed them 17th.

Sutton Park statistics since 2001 (standardized 5.847 km course length).

Note. For individual performances, the number and letter in the penultimate column indicates the stage and where a letter is present, that indicates the team; e.g. 4b = 4th stage for the B team.

Championship record progression

1:45:28	Belgrave H	.....	2001
1:44:24	Belgrave H	.....	2002
1:43:14	Newham & Essex Beagles	.....	2009
1:42:44	Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC	.....	2021

Fastest 10 teams (with finish positions) ²

1:42:44	Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC	..... 1	.....	2021
1:43:14	Newham & Essex Beagles	..... 1	.....	2009
1:43:24	Leeds City AC	..... 2	.....	2022
1:44:04	Cambridge & Coleridge AC	..... 3	.....	2022
1:44:06	Shaftesbury Barnet H	..... 3	.....	2021
1:44:24	Belgrave H	..... 1	.....	2002
1:44:36	Birchfield H	..... 4	.....	2021
1:44:58	Tonbridge AC	..... 5	.....	2021
1:45:31	Bedford & County AC	..... 6	.....	2021
1:45:31	Notts AC	..... 6	.....	2022

Individual record progression

17:22	Mike Boulstridge (Birchfield H)	..... 1	.....	2001
17:12	Rod Finch (Southampton R)	..... 2	.....	2001
17:02	Chris Thompson (Aldershot F&D)	..... 3	.....	2001
16:54	Sam Haughian (Windsor SE&H)	..... 4	.....	2001
16:53	Chris Thompson (Aldershot F&D)	..... 4	.....	2002
16:25	Chris Davies (Telford AC)	..... 2	.....	2003

Individual all-club all-time fastest 10

16:25	Chris Davies (Telford AC)	..... 2	.....	2003
16:29	Andrew Butchart (Central AC)	..... 5	.....	2016
16:33	Mohamed Farah (Newham & EB)	..... 6	.....	2009
16:33	Jack Rowe (Aldershot F&D AC)	..... 6	.....	2021
16:34	Omar Ahmed (Birchfield H)	..... 2	.....	2023
16:36	Will Barnicoat (Aldershot F&D)	..... 6	.....	2023
16:38	James Wilkinson (Leeds City AC)	..... 4	.....	2011
16:38	Rory Leonard (Morpeth H.)	..... 3	.....	2023
16:39	Chris Thompson (Aldershot F&D)	..... 6	.....	2004
16:40	Dewi Griffiths (Swansea H)	..... 6	.....	2017

Individual Belgrave record progression

17:49	Lee Hurst	..... 1	.....	2001
17:30	Paul Freary	..... 2	.....	2001
17:26	Stephen Sharp	..... 3	.....	2001
17:12	Spencer Barden	..... 3	.....	2002
17:08	Mark Miles	..... 5	.....	2002
17:02	Mark Miles	..... 6	.....	2004
17:00	Phil Wicks	..... 5	.....	2008
³ 16:35	Stewart McSweyn	..... 6	.....	2023

² The year 2021 brought club road running into the carbon plate running shoe era. Some claim that these shoes can offer up to a 4% improvement in performance to every runner. In reality it might be somewhat less, but after two decades of only four clubs achieving sub 1:45:00 performances (Belgrave four times, Newham & Essex Beagles twice, and Aldershot & Leeds once each), the first five teams home achieved this benchmark in the 2021 race).

Best individual Belgrave performances

⁴ 16:35	Stewart McSweyn	..... 6a	.....	2023
17:00	Phil Wicks	..... 5a	.....	2008
17:02	Mark Miles	..... 6	.....	2004
17:12	Spencer Barden	..... 3	.....	2002
17:14	David Anderson	..... 2	.....	2003
17:15	Allen Graffin	..... 4	.....	2002
17:18	Stephen Sharp	..... 1a	.....	2007
17:20	Kassa Tadesse	..... 2	.....	2005
17:20	Daniel Mulhare	..... 4	.....	2010
17:21	Neil Speaight	..... 6a	.....	2009
17:15	Nick Goolab	..... 6	.....	2013
	(10)			
17:24	Sam Gebreselassie	..... 3	.....	2021
17:26	Paul Freary	..... 1	.....	2003
17:29	Paskar Owor	..... 5	.....	2011
17:30	Jonathan Blackledge	..... 3a	.....	2007
17:33	Simon Jones	..... 4a	.....	2007
17:33	Craig Ruddy	..... 3	.....	2014
17:37	Steve Davies	..... 1b	.....	2009
17:44	Kevin Nash	..... 1	.....	2004
17:44	James Kelly	..... 1	.....	2011
17:46	Alaster Stewart	..... 5	.....	2001
	(20)			
17:48	Richard Ward U23	..... 1	.....	2002
17:49	Lee Hurst	..... 1	.....	2001
17:50	Craig Ruddy	..... 2	.....	2013
17:56	Mark Pollard	..... 1b	.....	2007
18:13	Henry Hart	..... 1a	.....	2023
18:21	James Wootton	..... 5a	.....	2023
18:28	Martin Dent ⁵	..... 5	.....	2003
18:28	Stephen Trainer	..... 4	.....	2014
18:28	Steve Gardner	..... 1	.....	2022
18:34	Will Cockerell	..... 1b	.....	2005
	(30)			
18:40	Kris Gauson U20	..... 4a	.....	2006
18:40	Eoin Molloy	..... 3b	.....	2023
18:41	Sam Sommerville	..... 3a	.....	2023
18:44	John Kimaiyo	..... 1b	.....	2006
18:47	Neil Wilson	..... 1	.....	2021
18:48	Conall Whelan	..... 5b	.....	2023
18:49	Malachi Byansi	..... 2b	.....	2006
18:50	Findlay Dyer	..... 1b	.....	2023
18:51	Jonathan Scott	..... 4	.....	2022
18:52	Tommy Taylor	..... 2	.....	2021
18:52	Arne Dumez	..... 6	.....	2021
	(40=)			
18:57	Conall McNally	..... 6	.....	2022
18:58	Gus Upton	..... 5	.....	2014
18:59	Peter Willis	..... 3b	.....	2005
19:01	Jonny Neville	..... 5	.....	2022

³ Ruled as an ineligible runner due to not being registered as a foreign athlete on the required date.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Running injured and some 1:10 down on expected time.

19:04	Charles Wood	4b	2023
19:09	Charlie Rogers	4a	2023
19:10	Graeme Hyett	4b	2008
19:10	Shaun Moralee	5b	2008
19:12	Lloyd Kempson	2b	2023
	(50)		
19:26	Conall McNally	6b	2023
19:31	James Fairbourn	4b	2007

19:33	Ewan Somerville	4	2021
19:34	John Charles	6b	2009
19:51	Lee Greatorex	4b	2005
19:54	Mark Humphrey	4b	2006
20:05	David Mason	6b	2007

All venue statistics since 1969

Belgrave individual team medal table

1	Stephen Sharp	●●●●●●●●●●
2	Spencer Barden	●●●●●●●●
3	Mark Miles	●●●●●●
4	Phil Wicks	●●●●●●●
5=	Paul Freary	●●●●●
	David Anderson	●●●●●
7	Simon Jones	●●●●●
8=	Kassa Tadesse	●●●●
	Alaster Stewart	●●●●
	Jonathan Blackledge	●●●●
11=	Nick Goolab	●●●●
	Neil Speaight	●●●●
13=	James Kelly	●●●●
	Steve Davies	●●●●
15=	Lee Hurst	●●●●
	Richard Ward	●●●●
	Allen Graffin	●●●●
	Martin Dent	●●●●
	Kevin Nash	●●●●
20	Daniel Mulhare	●●●●
21=	Richard Piotrowski	●●●●
	William Kerr	●●●●
	Gerry North	●●●●
	Laurie O'Hara	●●●●
	Tony Fairclough	●●●●
	John Thresher	●●●●
	Matthew Graham	●●●●
	Mark Pollard	●●●●
	Kris Gauson	●●●●
	Paskar Owor	●●●●
30	Belgrave medallists	

Most runs in the Belgrave 'A' team

Stephen Sharp (all consecutive)	10
Spencer Barden (all consecutive)	7
Paul Freary (2 consecutive)	6
Phil Wicks (5 consecutive)	6
Steve Davies (4 consecutive) plus 1 'B' team	5
Simon Jones (all consecutive)	5
Mark Miles (3 consecutive)	5
Paskar Owor (all consecutive) plus 1 'B' team	5
David Anderson (all consecutive)	4
Nick Goolab (3 consecutive)	4
James Kelly (3 consecutive) plus 2 'B' team	4
Lee Hurst (all consecutive)	3
Alaster Stewart	3

Neil Speaight (all consecutive)	3
Sam Gebreselassie (all consecutive)	3

Team medal table since 1969

1	Belgrave H	●●●●●●●●●●
2	Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC	●●●●●●●●●●
3	Bingley H&AC	●●●●●●●●●●
4	Tipton H	●●●●●●●●●●
5	City of Stoke AC	●●●●●●●●
6	Liverpool H&AC	●●●●●●●●
7=	Gateshead H&AC	●●●●●●●●
	Swansea H	●●●●●●●●
9	Newham & Essex Beagles	●●●●●●●●
10	Birchfield H	●●●●●●●●
11	Stretford AC	●●●●●●●●
12	Cardiff AAC	●●●●●●●●
13	Shaftesbury H / Shaftesbury Barnet H	●●●●●●●●
14	Leeds City AC	●●●●●●●●
15	Morpeth H&AC	●●●●●●●●
16	Bolton United H&AC	●●●●●●●●
17=	Blackheath H	●●●●●●●●
	Tonbridge AC	●●●●●●●●
19	Cambridge & Coleridge AC	●●●●●●●●
20=	Bedford & County AC	●●●●●●●●
	Sale H Manchester	●●●●●●●●
22	Stockport H&AC	●●●●●●●●
23	Salford H	●●●●●●●●
24=	Invicta AC	●●●●●●●●
	Derby & County AC	●●●●●●●●
26	Notts AC	●●●●●●●●
27=	Manchester & District H&AC	●●●●●●●●
	Cambridge H	●●●●●●●●
	Birmingham University	●●●●●●●●
	Cannock & Stafford AC	●●●●●●●●
	London Irish AC	●●●●●●●●
	Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC	●●●●●●●●
	Shettlestone H	●●●●●●●●
	Highgate H	●●●●●●●●
35=	Airdale & Spen Valley AC	●●●●●●●●
	Bristol AC / Bristol & West AC	●●●●●●●●
37=	Sheffield United H	●●●●●●●●
	Copeland AC	●●●●●●●●
	Central AC	●●●●●●●●
	Lincoln Wellington AC	●●●●●●●●

40 clubs have medalled since race inception.

Top 50 clubs with most top 10 placings (54 races)

1=	Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC inc. 'B' team ..	37
	Tipton H.....	37
3	Liverpool H&AC	20
4=	Bingley H&AC	19
	Bristol AC / Bristol & West AC	19
	Leeds City AC	19
7	Morpeth H&AC	18
8	Salford H	17
9=	Belgrave H	16
	Birchfield H.....	16
11	Shaftesbury H / Shaftesbury Barnet H.....	15
12=	Bedford & County AC.....	12
	Derby & County AC.....	12
	Highgate H	12
	Newham & Essex Beagles.....	12
	Swansea H.....	12
17	Notts AC.....	11
18=	Cardiff AC / AAC	10
	Gateshead H&AC	10
	Sale H / Sale H Manchester	10
21=	Airedale & Spen Valley AC	9
	Bolton United H&AC	9
	City of Stoke AC.....	9
	Tonbridge AC inc. 'B' team	9
25=	Blackheath H / Blackheath & Bromley HAC	8
	Cambridge & Coleridge AC.....	8
	Stretford AC	8
28=	Invicta AC.....	7
	Sheffield United H	7
30=	London Irish AC	6
	Southampton & Eastleigh AAC / Southampton City AC	6
	Sunderland H&AC.....	6
	Wolverhampton & Bilston AC.....	6
34=	Liverpool Pembroke AC / Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H&AC	5
	Reading AC.....	5
	Westbury H	5
37=	Cambridge H	4
	Central AC	4
	Leicester Coritanian AC	4
	Manchester & District H&AC.....	4
41=	Altrincham & District AC.....	3
	Annadale Striders	3
	Border H.....	3
	Cannock & Stafford AC.....	3
	Hercules Wimbledon AC.....	3
	Shettlestone H	3
	Small Heath	3
	Southampton RC	3
	Sutton H / St Helen's AC / St Helen's Sutton AC	3
	Thames Valley H.....	3
	Wells City H	3
	Windsor, Slough & Eton (& Hounslow) AC	3

Eighty-three clubs have placed teams in the top 10, but only Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC and Tonbridge AC have ever positioned a 'B' team that high.

Top 50 clubs ranked on top 10 positions

(scoring 10, 9, 8, etc.)		
1	Tipton H	256
2	Aldershot, Farnham & Dist. AC	223
3	Belgrave H	131
4	Liverpool H&AC	123
5	Bingley H&AC	119
6	Birchfield H	110
7	Leeds City AC.....	104
8	Salford H.....	102
9	Shaftesbury H / Shaftesbury Barnet H	98
10	Morpeth H&AC.....	91
11	Bristol AC / Bristol & West AC	88
12	Newham & Essex Beagles	86
13	Swansea H	77
14	Gateshead H&AC	70
15	Cardiff AC / AAC.....	66
16=	Bolton United H&AC	61
	Stretford AC	61
18	Derby & County AC	60
19	City of Stoke AC	57
20	Notts AC.....	55
21=	Cambridge & Coleridge AC	52
	Sale H / Sale H Manchester	52
	Cambridge & Coleridge AC	52
24=	Bedford & County AC	50
	Tonbridge AC.....	50
26	Highgate H	43
27=	Airedale & Spen Valley AC	40
	Blackheath H / Blackheath & Bromley HAC ...	40
29	Sheffield United H.....	39
30	Invicta AC	34
31	London Irish AC	26
32	Central AC	25
33	Manchester & District H&AC.....	24
34	Reading AC	23
35	Cannock & Stafford AC.....	21
35	Cambridge H.....	20
36=	Southampton RC	18
	Westbury H	18
	Wolverhampton & Bilston AC	18
39	Southampton & Eastleigh AAC / Southampton City AC	17
40=	Annadale Striders	16
	Shettlestone H	16
42=	Copeland AC	15
	Sunderland H&AC	15
	Sutton H / St Helen's AC / St Helen's Sutton AC	15
45=	Lincoln Wellington AC.....	14
	Windsor, Slough & Eton & Hounslow AC	14
47	Staffs Moorlands AC	12
48=	Altrincham & District AC	11
	Border H.....	11
	Boxhill R.....	11
	Leicester Coritanian AC.....	11
	Liverpool Pembroke AC / Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H&AC.....	11
	Small Heath H.....	11