



Above: Making an early impression. Kevin Nash (83) leads the Surrey League Division One field up the first Brockwell Park hill, ably supported by Stephen Sharp (just behind Kevin's shoulder to the right), Richard Ashe (86), Will Cockerell (90), eventual winner David Anderson (behind and to the right of Will), Knut Hegvold (89). [Alan Mead](#)

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## Road & Country

“Sweatshop” Men's Surrey CC League Division 1, Brockwell Park, 9 October 2004

### Bels start the season like Champions

The traditional opening match in Brockwell Park usually gives a clue as to the eventual league winners, the Thames boys always looking for the victory that sets them up for the rest of the series - and more often than not getting it. The Belgrave record in this South London park is less impressive but it all came good on this occasion with a very solid squad expected to be led home by Stephen Sharp.

Well, Stephen did plenty of leading. Reigate's Ali Moses, our own David Anderson and Kevin Nash, together with John McFarlane and Nick Altmann of Thames, were shown the route around the park by Steve before he accelerated away up the hill into the second circuit and established what seemed to be a winning break. David Anderson, due to run the Great South 10-miler the following day, had heeded the Captain's call to turn up and help kick-start our campaign. His intention was to run comfortably but help boost our score. What a boost! As the race drew to a conclusion and looking oh so relaxed, he cruised up to Stephen's shoulder and then couldn't resist a burst to take him seven seconds clear at the finish.

It was a fast time! Conditions were good underfoot, the grass having been mown just before the race, but there was, nevertheless, a blustery wind. Scanning through the results of previous years it seems that Stephen ran 40 seconds faster than his winning run of 2002 with both Belgrave men over a minute faster than any other run in the last decade - in fact the first eight were faster than any previous winning run during that period. Maybe the course was a little shorter?

Kevin Nash is again training big time and in spite of not easing down (and not arriving until 10 minutes before the start) ran a powerful race to go ahead of Moses half a mile out. For a while it seemed we might get a clean sweep but the Reigate man came back at him in the last few hundred metres.

The rest of our “ten” all ran extremely well with Knut Hegvold harvesting Thames men like cherries on the second lap and Tom Ellacott getting among the scorers in his very first run as a Belgrave.

Great running guys - but let's not get carried away. We are notorious for being unable to get the boys out for all four matches.

1 David Anderson (Belgrave) 22:22; 2 S.Sharp (Belgrave) 22:29; 3 A.Moses (Reigate Priory) 22:53; 4 K.Nash (Belgrave) 22:55; 5 N.Altmann (Thames H&H) 22:58; 6 E.Robinson (Aldershot F&D) 23:04; 8 R.Ashe 23:07; 15 W.Cockerell 23:46; 18 K.Hegvold M40 24:00; 25 R.Alsop 24:29; 31 J.Wolf 24:57; 34 T.Ellacott 25:02; 45 T.Hadfield 25:22; 49 J.Webb 25:26; 52 M.Humphrey 25:34; 58 P.Wytsch 25:46; 63 C.Dickinson M55 25:57; 97 T.St Ledger M40 27:09; 119 T.Watt 28:35; 144 H.Corbett M45 31:35; dnf A.Welsh; A.Leane, J.Browne.

### Teams:

1	Belgrave.....	1, 2, 4, 8, 15, 18, 25, 31, 34, 43.....	181
2	Thames H&H.....	5, 9, 16, 19, 20, 21, 27, 29, 35, 38.....	219
3	Herne Hill.....	11, 12, 17, 24, 28, 32, 40, 44, 47, 48.....	303
4	South London.....	10, 13, 22, 41, 45, 56, 59, 60, 69, 70.....	445
5	Aldershot F&D.....	6, 7, 23, 42, 51, 57, 58, 61, 63, 85.....	453
6	Guildford &G.....	30, 33, 36, 46, 49, 64, 68, 71, 74, 75.....	546
7	Reigate Priory.....	3, 14, 39, 53, 54, 62, 73, 83, 89, 90.....	560
8	Ranelagh.....	26, 37, 52, 55, 66, 77, 78, 80, 82, 86.....	639
9	Dulwich R.....	50, 65, 67, 72, 76, 79, 81, 84, 87, 88.....	749



Above: Victoria Clarke was fourth Belgravian home in a tightly packed team. [Jeremy Hemming](#).

Women's Surrey CC League Division 1,  
Wimbledon Common, 9 October 2004

## Great packing and an impressive turnout on the Common

With a record turnout of 16 Belgrave women, including six who were making their first competitive outing for the Belles, this was a good start to the season, *writes Catherine Eastham*.

Rachel Weston was first Belle home in 15th place. Let's hope that she can continue to stay injury free and be a regular scorer for the team this season, as things haven't gone so well for her on the injury front in recent years. With this top performance of the day things are looking promising.

New girl Sarah Murphy showed that she will be a great addition to the team. She has competed internationally before, but hasn't raced for many a year and now looks set to be making a strong comeback under Charlie Dickinson's guidance. Sarah was just seconds down on Rachel and just one place further back was Tilly Heaton who seems to have recovered well from a mammoth three-week bike ride across the country. Good packing from the team.

Vicky Clarke has really taken well to cross-country and although she left her arrival till late in the day, more than made up for it in the race. Fifth to score, and slightly disappointed with her performance was team captain Juliette Clark. Sadly it wasn't her day, but Jules' performances so far this season reassure us that this is just a minor blip.

Our A team came home in second place in a closely fought battle with Thames Hare and Hounds. Ranelagh's team performed superbly though to take the top honours, with Allison O'Neill over from France and finishing in third. Top individual was the consistent Lucy Hassell of Thames, with Eleanor Baker of SLH just seconds down.

We did provide the first B team (and second C team) which will no doubt surprise many observers. It's great to see that the Belles are finally achieving strength in depth. Given that a number of our runners were out of action this is a promising indication of what we can do in the future.

We have to thank our new girls for joining in the spirit of cross-country and look forward to them becoming regular team members on both here and on the road. Thanks go to all the team for being there and putting the claret and gold vests in the picture. Rumour has it that three of Ranelagh's top five scorers won't be around for the next race in Richmond Park, so let's pull all the stops out to get ourselves back at the top of the league again. It was a nice feeling being champions last year and we won't give in without a fight!

1 L.Hassell (Thames H&H) 20:59; 2 E.Baker (South London) 21:02; 3 A.O'Neil (Ranelagh) 21:12; 4 M.Pannett (Dulwich) 21:52; 5 L.Shelley (Ranelagh) 21:59; 6 J.Ronaldson (Ranelagh) 22:06; 15 R.Weston 33:29; 16 S.Murphy 23:31; 17 M.Heaton 23:42; 21 V.Clarke 23:48; 25 J.Clark W40 24:03; 29 H.Smethurst W40 24:30; 33 A.Hegvold W35 24:37; 40 R.Powell 24:58; 45 C.Bertram 25:38; 68 H.Alsop W35 27:08; 77 V.Jones 27:43; 94 C.Eastham 28:41; 109, K.Scarfe 29:31; 144 C.Rehn W35 33:26; 158 S.Castle W35 39:03.

### Teams:

1	Ranelagh H 'A'	..... 3, 5, 6, 12, 13.....	39
2	Belgrave H 'A'	..... 15, 16, 17, 21, 25.....	94
3	Thames H&H	..... 1, 7, 11, 39, 41.....	99
4	South London H	..... 2, 19, 20, 30, 35.....	106
5	Dulwich R	..... 4, 8, 23, 48, 58.....	141
6	Epsom & Ewell	..... 9, 24, 42, 49, 72.....	196
9	Belgrave H 'B'	..... 29, 33, 40, 67, 76.....	245
25	Belgrave H 'C'	..... 93, 103, 108, 143, 157.....	604
38	teams closed in.		

## Recent Results

### Road & Country

#### August 2004

21 **Run for the Bears 5 km**, Pigeon Forge TN USA. Women. 1 C Berry 16:49 (beat all the men!).

#### September 2004

11 **Wildcat Invitational 8 km CC**, Durham, NH USA. 1 A McLean-Foreman 24:57.

26 **Berlin Marathon**. L Rehn M40 3:27:16.

#### October 2004

- 02 **Appelfest 4 miles**, Erwin TN USA. Women. 1 C Berry 21:58.  
 03 **Standalone 10 km**, Herts. 1 R Jay (Norfolk Gazelles) 31:32; 20 R Dorman M40 35:29.  
 03 **Swansea Bay 10 km**. Women. 1 R Ddungu (Kenya) 32:26; 3 B Dagne 33:46.  
 03 **Wimbledon 10 miles**, Wimbledon Park. 1 R Copestick (Walton) 53:58; 2 M Byansi 54:13.  
 03 **Cardiff Half Marathon**, 1 A Marriott (Yeovil/Herc Wimb) 1:08:28; 63 S Brewer 1:28:45.  
 09 **Reebok Cross Challenge**, Falkirk. 1 M Skinner (Blackheath & B) 30:56; 19 D Gauson 33:15. U17M 1 K Gauson 14:12.  
 09 **Hampshire Men's CC League**. 1 A Maclean (T Southampton) 30:58; 5 T Watson 32:13.  
 10 **Chicago Marathon**. 1 E Rutto (Kenya) 2:06:16; 13 M Dent 2:15:35.  
 10 **Great South Run 10 miles**, Portsmouth. 1 H Ramaala (RSA) 47:14; 11 K Tadesse 49:01; 25 J Blackledge 52:39; 47 J Clarke 55:10; 75 J Galley M40 57:48; David Anderson dnf.  
 10 **Kingston Running Festival Marathon**, Kingston. 1 M Byansi 2:41:15.

## Grapevine

◆ Marty Dent writes from Australia, where he met up with Mark Thompson a few days ago, and tells us about his Chicago Marathon:

"Chicago was a tough race. I went out at 5 minute mile/2:11 pace. We were still at that pace at 22 miles and I had only slowed a little at 25 miles. The last 2.2 km took me 9min so I went from running 2:13 to 2:15. I finished with nothing left and collapsed. I can't remember the last few hundred metres either. But I have recovered well and keen for another marathon, might even make it to London next year."

◆ Two and a half miles into the Great South Run David Anderson got a twinge in his Achilles tendon that immediately had him turning off the gas. He jogged on to the 5 mile point with no further trouble and after some ice and attention is as right as rain. Having only recently come back from a four month lay-off he didn't want to take any risks – especially with some big races looming.

◆ More Belgrave memorabilia is turning up for sale on eBay.

A bronze medal engraved "1949 7m Junior Walk 3rd" was recently offered. Checking through the archives we find that in 1949 third place in the "Horwood Cup", which was junior by standard, went to G.Oliver. George Oliver, we are told, was around until 1954 or 55 and worked for the Inland Revenue.

Another item being auctioned recently was an

*“Extremely rare running vest. From the mid 1990’s a Belgrave athletics vest. Made by Viga, the vest has an official Mizuno sew on over the makers name as this was used by a sponsored athlete. Also features the club sponsor (Tilda Rice).”*

As the seller was based in East Anglia, we believe this must have belonged to Nigel Powley who was with us for a while in the ’90s.

Hercules Wimbledon’s Pete Mulholland also drew our attention to this item although what he was doing looking for a Belgrave vest on the web we can’t imagine. Anyway, it’s gone now ... and maybe we’ll see Pete wearing it in the Lauriston Christmas Day Parlauf.

◆ Clive Shippen has given us a Belgrave “birthday” to celebrate: “When I did my original research I was able to ascertain that the founding meeting was somewhere between 30 Sep 1887 and 14 Oct 1887 (both Fridays). On Oct 1st A.H.N. Edwards, the Club’s first Secretary, was reported in the press as a member of “Chelsea”. On Oct 15 Belgrave’s first pack run took place (confirmed in a newspaper). Therefore the Club was founded between those two dates. As Committee meetings were generally held on a Friday in those days it is reasonable to assume that the founding meeting was held on the Friday between those two dates i.e. 7 October 1887.

◆ Ranjit Bhatia, one of our long-serving Vice-Presidents, was invited by the AAA to attend the Roger Bannister 4-Minute Mile celebrations at Oxford in May. He was very familiar with the Iffley Road track as he was a graduate of the University back in the “fifties” and was a key figure in Belgrave teams of that time. He set a new record for our 5 ¾ mile road race (a big event in those days as it was the trial for the selection of our 12-stage London to Brighton relay teams).

His last relay before returning to Delhi was the 1960 National Relay on the Brighton Road. He ran the long critical 9th stage and was 3rd fastest of the day – a key factor in Belgrave’s eventual 4th place.

Ranjit went on to represent India in the 1960 Rome Olympics, competing in the 10,000m and marathon.

He has been actively involved in the Indian athletic scene ever since and is a member of the ATFS, contributing results and stats to AW.

For many years he sat on the Oxford Rhodes Scholarship committee and visited England every June, always making a point of contacting Belgrave. He writes:-

*“Last month I received the news of the passing away of Derek Johnson. Derek was the first athlete to greet me at Oxford in 1957. I was also distressed to hear of Alistair Wood’s death. The good news concerns Belgrave Harriers. The Club has become the most well run outfit in England and the Belgrave vest is conspicuous at nearly every international meet. I feel so proud of being associated with it.”*

We regret to say that Ranjit has contracted Parkinson’s Disease, but he still runs at a reduced level and has been told that his life-long running has minimised the effects of the problem. He will be visiting England again next May and looks forward to contacting Bels again.

## Can we make it four in a row in AAA 6?

The men’s AAA 6-stage road relay race has been held annually since 1969 when our team of Dick Piotrowski, Bill Kerr, Gerry North, Laurie O’Hara, Tony Fairclough and John Thresher finally took the bronze medals, having reached a highest placing of 2nd on the 5th stage. Gerry, now our President, will be on hand in Sutton Park to cheer on today’s

Bels in their quest to emulate City of Stoke AC who chalked up four wins in a row in the early years.

Back in ’69 the introduction of this new race was viewed with mixed feelings. Generally it was felt that the fixture list was already too crowded. In the event, only nineteen clubs entered and only nine showed up to contest the race. What a contrast with today’s fields of around 70 teams, with many eager to take a shot at this most difficult to win championship.

Our team for the 2004 race next weekend is strong but the result is by no means certain. Morpeth Harriers won the Northern title by a huge margin and have a very talented side. Birchfield won the Midland title from Notts AC by just ten seconds and set a Midland Championship record of 1:48:24 for the Sutton Park course. From the South, Highgate Harriers are enjoying a revival and will be very competitive with Keith Cullen likely to set one of the day’s fastest times, Newham & Essex Beagles could have a terrific team if they get everyone out while Aldershot, Farnham & District, winners of the 12-Stage in the spring, are stronger still over the six lap race.

Until 2000, the course at Sutton Park varied in length considerably. That year a permanent marker was laid down at the turning point at the far end of the lap, now officially recorded as 5.847k in length. Bels hold the three fastest times with 1:44:24 (2002), 1:45:22 (2003) and 1:45:28 (2001).

For Belgrave’s women, it’s early days in the pursuit of the 4-stage title. On paper we could be close to it now but getting the right people together at the same time is another thing. Perhaps more important is establishing the race as a “must” in our calendar. The event was first held in 1963 when Selsonia LAC placed 3rd, no doubt assisted by our own Pam Davies. The Belles have only tackled the event in the last three years.

### Men’s AAA 6-Stage Road Relay Championship 1969-2003

Year	Venue	Winners	Belgrave
1969	Crystal Palace	City of Stoke	3rd
1970	Southport	City of Stoke	-
1971	Southport	City of Stoke	-
1972	Leeds	City of Stoke	-
1973	Keele	Bolton United Harriers	-
1974	Wimbledon	Liverpool Harriers	18th
1975	Wimbledon	Liverpool Harriers	24th
1976	Southport	Liverpool Harriers	-
1977	Melton Mowbray	Tipton Harriers	-
1978	Crystal Palace	Cambridge & Coleridge	28th
1979	Southport	Bingley Harriers	-
1980	Melton Mowbray	Tipton Harriers	-
1981	Crystal Palace	Aldershot, Farnham & DAC	-
1982	Derby	Tipton Harriers	-
1983	Melton Mowbray	Shaftesbury Harriers	-
1984	Thamesmead	Stretford	-
1985	Manchester	Gateshead Harriers	-
1986	Sutton Coldfield	Gateshead Harriers	-
1987	Crystal Palace	Gateshead Harriers	-
1988	Derby	Swansea Harriers	-
1989	Sutton Coldfield	Stretford	-
1990	Aldershot	Bingley Harriers	-
1991	Chorley	Swansea Harriers	-
1992	Sutton Coldfield	Tipton Harriers	-
1993	Aldershot	Blackheath Harriers	-
1994	Sunderland	Bingley Harriers	-
1995	Sutton Coldfield	Bingley Harriers	-
1996	Sutton Coldfield	Bingley Harriers	-
1997	Sutton Coldfield	Birchfield Harriers	-
1998	Sutton Coldfield	Birchfield Harriers	-
1999	Sutton Coldfield	Cardiff	4th
2000	Sutton Coldfield	Morpeth Harriers	6th
2001	Sutton Coldfield	Belgrave Harriers	1st
2002	Sutton Coldfield	Belgrave Harriers	1st
2003	Sutton Coldfield	Belgrave Harriers	1st

### Women’s AAA 4-Stage Road Relay Championship

Year	Venue	Winners	Belgrave
2001	Sutton Coldfield	Charmwood H	7th
2002	Sutton Coldfield	Windsor, Slough E&H	15th
2003	Sutton Coldfield	Chester le Street	20th