

THE 73rd ALUMNI RACE held on Saturday 13th September 2025 at Roehampton.

The day started well, with mild sunny weather, as the train arrived at Euston and the Tube ride to Putney Bridge Underground Station went to plan, where my annual pilgrimage to The River Café, opposite, for brunch was enjoyed and then Jonny Price (I 2017-22 & Huntsman) arrived to join me there, before we jumped on the No.85 Bus that took us down to The Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields Pavilion, near Roehampton. The Thames Hare & Hounds Running Club has organised this Race for 73 years, which has been held over a 5 mile Cross Country Course that takes in the varied conditions around the South-West corner of Wimbledon Common, for the alumni of the Schools across the UK. On arrival, greetings were made to our accumulating larger OSH Team, as well as friends and supporters, before vest numbers were attached and photos taken.



At about 2.50pm we all moved into the adjacent field, where the teams started to gather at the far end, with the glorious sight of thirteen “Green & Gold” OSH vests taking centre stage. At 3pm, the long Start-Line threw off, with notable prominence of some of our Team trying to get an early good position, ready for the narrowing of the path that happens after the second field. There were five Huntsmen jostling for forward positions, being Freddie Fielding (R 2012-17), George Mallett (S 2007-12), & brother Ed (Our Captain) (S 2008-13), Jonny Price and Sam Western (S 2015-20), along with the rest of our Team, who have to negotiate a mixture of terrain, on a path that eventually rises to a gravelled plateau. Even though there had been some previous showers, the ground was reasonably dry for running today. The Pack vanishes out of view through the woods, except for some of our supporters, Will Bayliss (Rt 2011-16), Oscar Dickins (R 2011-16 & H’), Liv Papaioannou (EDH 2014-16 & Huntswoman & Hon. Sec.) & friends Alex, Molly & Jemima, who went to see our Team go through the half-way point.



(Jemima, Molly, Oscar and Will)

After some twenty-five minutes, we hear a shout in the entrance to the final field and it is so exciting to see Freddie triumphantly striding out, with his signature white cap still upon his head, making his way to the finish funnel in First Place, in 25 minutes 26 seconds. Then, as if that wasn't amazing enough, along comes George (finishing in 25:34), that gets all of the OSH Spectators cheering, as a first time "One Two" for Shrewsbury is achieved for the first time in 73 years !



(Freddie and George triumphant!)

It was a long 29 seconds before George Grassly of Harrow came into the finish at 3rd place ! As we catch our breath, our Captain, Ed comes into view taking 6th place in 27:52, and then our fourth counter, and our newest OSH Team Member, Harry Parker-McLain (I 2020-25) raced into The Funnel, against Nathan Janmohamed of RGS Guildford to take 16th equal place, in a time of 30:10 ... Things were looking good already ! Jonny Price was only 15 seconds behind Harry and then our notorious Oarsman & Runner, Louis Nares (I 2015-20) powered in, completing "an Ingrams Triple" ! It wasn't long before Sam Bayliss (Rt 2013-18) arrived, just in front of his brother Orlando (Rt 2018-23) – it was

a shame that their older brother, Will, was unable to run today, to make an historic brotherly Trio, but pleased to have his support.



(The Bayliss brothers)

Becoming a regular visitor to this testing event, Sam Western ran well, finishing at 38th position, before Passy Goddard (G 2011-16), on her 3rd appearance to this Race, became the 4th Female Finisher, showing that if we had 3 Girls in our Team, they would easily pick up the Trophy for that category. If I have counted correctly, it is the sixth time that James Humpish (SH 2008-13) has been an important part of our OSH Alumni Team and on this day he knocked off some 4 minutes from his time of last year. It was great to welcome Jonny Shaw (Ch 2003-08), who experienced his first attendance of this Race. Beyond counting of visits, is Michael Johnson (S 1955-60), also a Member of TH&H, who is a veteran of not only this Race, but is a successful runner in many GB Masters Championship Races. In fact, it wasn't until Michael and his wife, Jane, arrived at The King's Head Pub in Roehampton (the original HQ of TH&H) where many of us congregated after the race, that he was able to confirm that The OSH Team had won 1st Place in the Open Race Category, lifting the King Henry VIII Trophy once again. We won this Cup in 2020 for the Virtual Race (68th) of the Covid Lock-Down Year, but won the "Actual" Race (71st) for the first time in 2023, followed by a 2nd place last year (72nd). There is a sense of pride that our annual visit is producing such good results in this prestigious event, thanks to the efforts of everyone who make up our Team. As you can probably imagine, we celebrated the success appropriately for some time at this comfortable establishment !



(Celebrations in the King's Head)

There were 195 finishers out of the 233 who registered for this Race, with 32 Teams entered. On further analysis of the results, The OSH Team was at 1st Place with 26 points, ahead of Bishops Cape Town with 58 and then Harrow with 66. We also won "The Shrewsbury Cup" for the Age-Graded Race Team Category, with Michael winning the V80 Category. Freddie actually won two Cups, being "The Norman Berry Cup" for being the First Individual Finisher and also "The Wyndham Halswelle Cup" for becoming the leader of the Age-Graded Race Category.

A few of the moments of the day are shown here, but a full album can be found on our OSH Facebook page directly on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/153818067997254> or for those that don't like facebook, then access is available through the Link on our OSH website page.

Have a look at all the results on <https://data.opentrack.run/en-gb/x/2025/GBR/thhar> .

This day definitely produced "Serious Fun" for these Salopians and we can't wait to do it again next year !

Peter Birch. OSH Chairman. (Dayboys Hall 1966-71 & Huntsman.)

