

The fifteenth Tunbridge Wells Harriers Cross Country Championships took place in Hargate Forest on Saturday morning with the kind permission of the Woodland Trust. After the heavy rainfall of the past few months, there were areas of deep mud on the 1.8 mile circuit, resulting in the slowest winning time for some nine years. In spite of the hard conditions underfoot, the 5.4 mile race was held in glorious spring sunshine.

Andy Howey and Stuart Shields ran together for the first of the three laps, with Stuart briefly taking the lead when Andy missed a turning – all the more surprising, as he had earlier laid out the course markers. Andy regained the lead, and finished the race in a time of 37:55 to take both the senior men's and M50 titles. Stuart tired slightly on the final lap, but held off Simon Whitaker to take the M40 title in a time of 38:23. Cross Country Captain Ed Steele finished in fourth place in a time of 39:25, with Steve Woodruffe following up to take second in the M50 category.

In the women's race, Lucille Joannes won the F55 category in a time of 59:35 which was faster than Stella Richardson's winning time of last year, in spite of having to negotiate the cloying mud and fallen trees from the winter's storms. Lucille was the only female competitor, and therefore took the senior women's title as well as her age category win.

Having recovered from his recent duties as Half Marathon Race Director, Mark Taylor finished first in the M60 age group in a time of 42:24, with last year's winner Peter Richardson finishing second in the category. The M70 race was held over two laps of the circuit, with John Dyson taking the title in 38:56 with Bryon 'Spud' Taylor taking second place.

1	Andy Howey	37:55	1st SenM, M50
2	Stuart Shields	38:23	1st M40
3	Simon Whitaker	38:37	
4	Ed Steele	39:25	
5	Steve Woodruffe	41:24	
6	Andy Joad	41:25	
7	Simon Howden	42:00	
8	Mark Taylor	42:24	1st M60
9	Derek Harrison	48:51	
10	Peter Tullett	51:54	
11	Peter Richardson	51:58	
12	Colin Fox	54:09	
13	Geoff Turner	54:28	
14	Phil Long	56:14	
15	Lucille Joannes	59:35	1st SenF, F55
	<u>M70 (2 laps)</u>		
1	John Dyson	38:56	1st M70
2	Bryon 'Spud' Taylor	53:45	