



**The 150th Birthday of Thames Hare and Hounds
October 17th 2018**

The following notice appeared in *The Sportsman* on October 3rd 1868:

THAMES HARE AND HOUNDS

“A handicap ‘paper hunt’ will take place on Saturday 17th October, starting from the King's Head, Roehampton Bottom (one mile from Barnes Station) at 4.30 p.m. (3.45 p.m. train from Waterloo). Hounds, who must be introduced by some member of the Thames Rowing Club or belong to an athletic club, rowing club, school, etc., will be roughly handicapped. A pewter will be given to the hound first to reach each hare.”

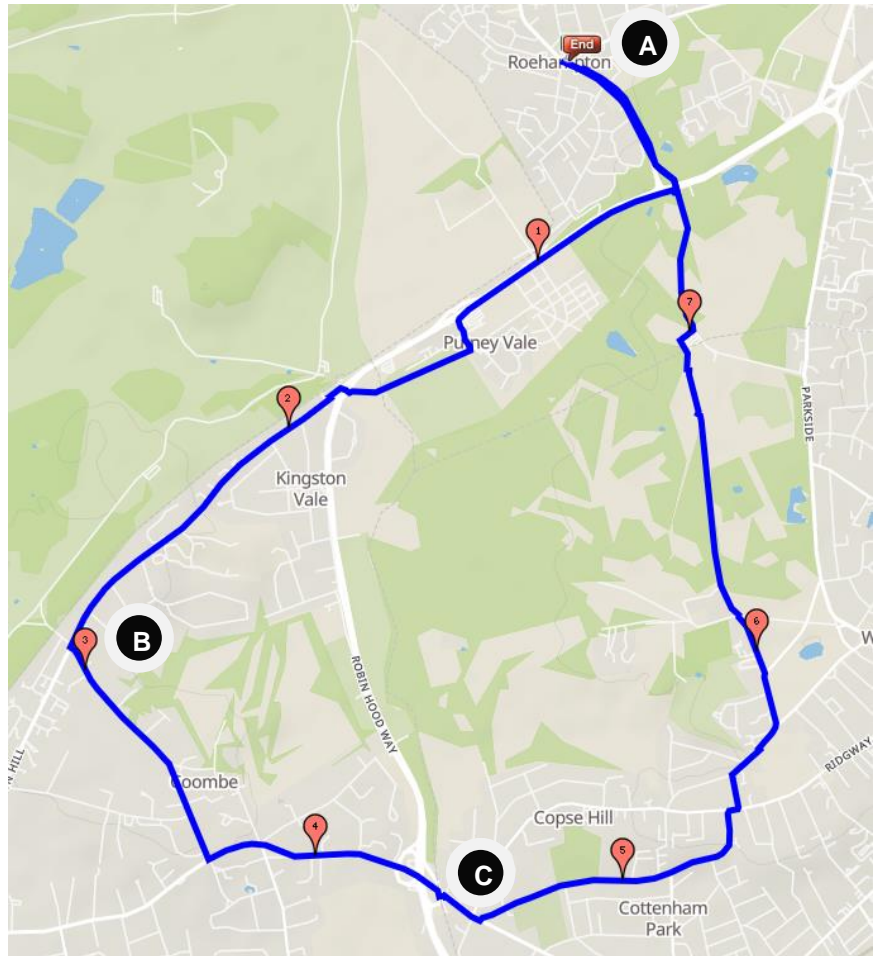
Although our origins can be traced back 10 months before this (to the Thames Handicap Steeplechase No. 1 on December 7th 1867), this event was the first for the newly-formed Thames Hare Hounds. Prior to it, the handicap steeplechases had been run under the auspices of Thames Rowing Club.

The event was well reported on in the press, including the following from *Bell's Life* on October 24th:

“On Saturday last the members of this club who have already made themselves famous by several foot steeple chases, which, although very excellent things, do not seem to have been adopted by any other club in London, introduced to the notice of amateur athletes a description of sport familiar, no doubt, in school days to many of them as a “Paper Run” or “Hare and Hounds.” The meet was at Roehampton Bottom, Messrs W. Rye (Thames R.C.) and E.G.Boor (London Athletic Club) being the hares, while the following is a list of their pursuers:—O. J. Chenery (L.A.C., late Marlborough Grammar School), owed 9 min; P.M.Evans (L.A.C.), 6 min; W. F. Wood (L.A.C.), 7 min; W.Eyre and J.C.Gordon (Flamingoes F B.C.), 7 min; J.J.Pierson (Framlingham), 6 min; F.Schultz (London Scottish R.V.), 8 min; J.K.Birkley (Thames R.C.), 9 min; P.S.Harvey and J.G.Webster (Twickenham B.C.), 10 min; C.Schultze, T.Irvine, Levers, Beazley (T.R.C.), &c. Mr H.F.Wilkinson despatched the hares at 4:45 in the direction of the Kingston road, whence they made for the rifle butts, turning off short down a lane by the side of the Bald Faced Stag, on to Wimbledon Common, over sticky ground, high hedges, and through a brook to near Combe Wood, and thence in the direction of Richmond Park. At the brook the hounds, led by Evans and Pierson, lost the scent, and in beating about the rearmost division closed up. Chenery, well used to this work, soon hit off the trail, and eventually, after a long detour, Boor, who had lost his shoe, but continued running most gamely, was captured by Birkley in the open, which Rye, warned by the fate of his friend, abandoned for a series of marshy grass fields, with severe gates, along Petty Wad Wood, till he reached the “Ridge Way” This hill settled the prospects of several of the hounds, only six viewing the hare on reaching Wimbledon Village by the cricket ground, and after a desperate run during which he was so pressed as to be compelled to throw away his scent bag, he landed in the yard of the King's Head, 100 yards before his nearest pursuer, Chenery. The hares ran a little under eight miles, over enclosed grass, rough heather and furze, plough, and road, while the hounds, thanks to the lucky blunder in the beginning of the run, covered more than a mile less. The times from the start were—Rye, 61 min 27sec; Chenery, 61 min 45 sec; Gordon, 61 min 55 sec; Evans, 61 min 59 sec.”

Recreating the route of Thames' Inaugural Run in 2018

On the evening of Wednesday October 17th 2018, we will be running over the route of the club's inaugural run from 1868. Clearly, the landscape has changed much since then; however, thanks to the ample reporting of that run in the press and *The Annals of Thames Hare and Hounds*, we are able to recreate a route that follows that trail closely. It is shown in the map on the right and, in summary, it is as follows: starting from the King's Head in Roehampton, up to Roehampton Lane to the junction with the A3; through the underpass; right turn to head down the A3 towards our current clubhouse; left turn at Stag Lane and down Stag Lane and turn right onto the Memorial Playing Fields; over the playing fields, past our clubhouse, over the bridge to the crossing at Robin Hood; up Kingston Hill as far as Warren Road; left into Warren Road and continue until Coombe Lane is reached; left at Coombe Lane and down the hill and over the A3 until Cottenham Park Road is reached; left up Cottenham Park Road until the Ridgway is reached; then into Woodhayes Road and continue until the Common is reached; across the Common to the Windmill and then on to the A3 underpass; under the underpass and then back down Roehampton Lane to arrive at the King's Head. The route can also be viewed [here](#).



Given the distance to be covered, we plan to depart from the King's Head at 7.00 p.m. There will be the opportunity for members to join the run at two points along the way: the junction of Kingston Hill and Warren Road; and at the bottom of Cottenham Park Road. The estimate times of reaching these points and the exact meeting locations are detailed below. They have been based on the group running at about 8 minutes per mile. Following the run, from about 8.30 p.m., we will be gathering at the King's Head for refreshments.

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| Point | Estimated departure time | Distance to run | Details | Nearest station | Map co-ordinates |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| A | 7.00 p.m. | 8 miles | Depart from outside the King's Head, Roehampton | Putney or Barnes | 51.449988, -0.240955 |
| B | 7.25 p.m. | 5 miles | Depart from the junction of Kingston Hill and Warren Road. | Kingston | 51.425122, -0.274412 |
| C | 7.40 p.m. | 3.5 miles | Depart from the bottom of Cottenham Park Road | Raynes Park | 51.413660, -0.246660 |
| Finish | 8.10 p.m. | n/a | King's Head, Roehampton | Putney or Barnes | 51.449988, -0.240955 |