

Men's six stage road relay, the early years

In 1969, the AAA decided that there was a case to be made for a national men's road relay to be held over six equal stages. This followed on from the demise of the London to Brighton National relay championship and the inauguration of a replacement 12-stage event.

It did not have a very successful debut as just nine teams turned up at Crystal Palace on a rainy Saturday afternoon. City of Stoke won that event and the next three, which were all in the North of England. Eventually a rotation of North, Midland, South took hold, before the event moved permanently to Sutton Park in 1995.

Distance of the stages varied tremendously from well less than three miles up to more nearly five.

Here Martin Duff, who twice ran in fourth placed teams, between his first outing at Southport in 1970 and his last in 1991 as well as many lesser performances in between, lists a history of the leading teams and runners from his complete collection of the Athletics Weekly magazines.

Year	Venue	First three	Time	Fastest	Time
1969	Crystal Palace	1 Stoke	77:16	Mike Turner	12;25
		2 Manchester	78:18	Ricky Wilde	12;40
		3 Belgrave	78:25	Bob Richardson	12:40
1970	Southport	1 Stoke	1:57:59	Mike Freary	18:54
		2 Cambridge H	1:58:18	Andy Holden	18:56
		3 Tipton	1:58:26	Alan Rushmer	19:15
1971	Southport	1 Stoke	1:57:32	Mike Turner	18:48
		2 Bolton	1:57:52	Mike Freary	18:50
		3 Sheffield	1:58:27	Tony Birks	19:02
19:72	Leeds	1 Stoke	2:05:26	Mike Freary	20:10
		2 Liverpool	2:05:39	Mike Turner	20:21
		3 Bolton	2:05:56	Tony Birks	20:23
1973	Keele	1 Bolton	1:42:03	Frank Davies	16:49
		2 Birmingham Univ.	1:43:45	Tony Birks	16:53
		3 Cardiff	1:44:00	Jack Lane	16:54
1974	Wimbledon	1 Liverpool	1:44:08	Dave Black	16:51
		2 Invicta	1:44:50	Keith Penny	16:52
		3 Cardiff	1:45:04	Kevin Steere	17:00
1975	Wimbledon	1 Liverpool	1:54:00	Bernie Ford	16:49
		2 Shaftesbury	1:54:47	Julian Goater	16:48
		3 Cardiff	1:55:11	Keith Penny	16:52
1976	Southport	1 Liverpool	1:57:16	Steve Kenyon	18:34
		2 Aldershot F&D	1:57:53	Bernie Ford	18:51
		3 Airedale & Spennings V	1:58:12	Dave Black	18:56

1977	Melton Mowbray	1 Tipton	1:45:40	Steve Kenyon	17:03
		2 Aldershot F&D	1:45:46	Bernie Ford	17:05
		3 Airedale & Spen V	1:46:08	Julian Goater/Steve Emson	17:15
1978	Crystal Palace	1 Cambridge & Col	77:55	Steve Kenyon	12:20
		2 Shaftesbury	77:27	Bernie Ford	12:21
		3 Aldershot F&D	77:31	Julian Goater	12:21
1979	Southport	1 Bingley	1:56:30	Steve Binns	18:27
		2 Gateshead	1:57:13	Nick Rose	18:37
		3 Manchester	1:57:52	Ken Newton	18:44
1980	Melton Mowbray	1 Tipton	1:44;11	Steve Binns	16:54
		2 Aldershot F&D	1:45:29	Roger Hackney	17:05
		3 Bolton	1:46:00	Tony Milovsorov	17:05
1981	Crystal Palace	1 Aldershot	1:57:30	Bernie Ford	19:04
		2 Invicta	1:58:46	Nicky Lees	19:11
		3 Tipton	1:59:37	Andy Armitage Mike Gratton	19:37
1982	Derby	1 Tipton	1:54:35	Chris Woodhouse	18:27
		2 Derby	1:54:55	Steve Harris	18:29
		3 Bingley	1:55:00	Nicky Lees	18:30
1983	Melton Mowbray	1 Shaftesbury	1:43:11	Mike McLeod	16:31
		2 Aldershot F&D	1:43:21	Julian Goater	16:37
		3 Gateshead	1:44:28	Roger Hackney	16:40
1984	Thamesmead	1 Sheffield	98:32	Tony Milovsorov	15:34
		2 Aldershot F&D	98:49	Carl Harrison	15:59
		3 Tipton	98:54	Barry Smith	16:02
1985	Heaton Park	1 Gateshead	94:28	Steve Anders	15:18
		2 Tipton	95:59	Nick Peach	15:22
		3 Stretford	96:09	Ton Milovsorov Barry Smith	15:28
1986	Sutton Park	1 Gateshead	84:27	Roger Hackney	13;33
		2 Tipton	84:54	Craig Mochrie	13:34
		3 Stretford	85:20	Steve Anders	13:40
1987	Crystal Palace	1 Gateshead	1:45:40	Roger Hackney	17:01
		2 Stretford	1:46:31	Craig Mochrie	17:02
		3 Tipton	1:46:50	Tony Milovsorov	17:10
1988	Derby	1 Swansea	2:26:05	Steve Binns	23:12
		2 Tipton	2:26:07	Nigel Adams	23;19
		3 Birchfield	2:26:20	Carl Thackery	23;19
1989	Sutton Park	1 Stretford	1:41:38	Nick Rose	16:15
		2 Tipton	1:41:48	Nigel Adams	16:17
		3 Bristol	1:42:05	Eamonn Martin	16:23
1990	Aldershot	1 Bingley	1:47:19	Steve Binns	17:12
		2 Tipton	1:48:07	Nigel Adams	17:15
		3 Stretford	1:48:17	Nick Rose	17:23

1991	Chorley	1 Swansea	1:47:33	John Sherban	17:06
		2 Shaftesbury	1:48:04	Nigel Adams	17:28
		3 Tipton	1:48:49	John Mayock	17:36
1992	Sutton Park	1 Tipton	1:41;15	Richard Nerurkar	16:10
		2 Bingley	1:41:48	Jon Brown	16:17
		3 Copeland	1:42:34	Martin Jones	16:24
1993	Aldershot	1 Blackheath	1:46:25	Keith Cullen	17:08
		2 Cannock & Stafford	1:47:08	Paul Davies-Hale	17:13
		3 Swansea	1:47:30	David Burke	17:18
1994	Silksworth	1 Bingley	1:57:15	Richard Nerurkar	18:52
		2 Blackheath	1:57:34	Keith Cullen	19:01
		3 Salford	1:58:29	Spencer Newport	19:02