

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes [UNRATIFIED] of the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 23rd 2026, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Participants: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Roland Gibbard (Co-Opted Member), Steve Grant (Track and Field Officials Secretary), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Chairperson / Life Vice-President), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC), Sandra Woodman (Honorary Life Member), Stuart Woodman (Honorary Life Member).

Apologies for Non-Participation: Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President / Endurance Officials Secretary), Andy Heyes (Clevedon AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Minutes of Previous AGM (March 31st 2025): accepted.

Matters Arising: None.

Chairperson's Remarks:

"Welcome everyone, thank you for attending tonight's meeting(s).

"Can I begin by first offering our current President Pam Gooding and Life Vice President Ray Gooding a speedy recovery from their current health issues. Both remain wonderful sources of wisdom and experience to the Association and I wish them well.

"In addition to Ray Brigden, Dave Hart and Dave Jones mentioned in John Deaton's report the Association sadly lost one of its longest standing Life Members, Clive Smith (Bristol & West) in early February this year.

"2025 was in my view a largely positive one for the Association with successful Championships across all aspects of athletics. There was a pleasing increase in the recruitment of new and promotion of existing officials. Even more impressive was the fact that our number of active officials is actually higher than many larger counties. I am optimistic that we can look forward to another successful year in 2026. There will be challenges - adapting to the new age categories; an ever-increasing number of events meaning an almost impossibly full calendar and unsustainable demands on officials. But the recent Sports Hall events perhaps show us a way forward with the welcome involvement of two young former Avon competitors as team managers of the dominant Avon teams at the South West Championships.

"As John's report highlights there is a question of the Association's relationship with the constituent clubs at a time when many of them operate as virtual entities and much of their needs are directly catered for on line by EA.

"I believe that the Association is as relevant as ever as a prime competition provider and in supporting the recruitment, promotion and retention of officials and coaches. We want to ensure that athletics remains a mainstream sporting activity and continues to evolve and grow. We are only able to do so with the help and dedication of what is an increasingly small band of people like Pam, John, Hilary, Steve and Debbie. With the exception of Debbie none of us are getting any younger. The officers will do all they can to continue the Association's work but without more help from clubs or individuals then all that we have achieved and all that we wish to achieve will be a risk in the near future. The ball is in your court."

(End of Chairperson's Remarks)

Secretary's Report: (distributed in advance, copies available on request). Meetings of CoffSec's: Steve Grant stated that these had mainly dealt with local or short-term issues (e.g. requests for Officials), but undertook to report any items of more general interest to our clubs and officials. The meeting submitted a Vote of Thanks to John Deaton for his work during the year.

Treasurer's Report for 2025: (distributed in advance; copies available on request): Accounts have been approved by the Independent Examiner. Accepted. The meeting submitted a Vote of Thanks to Hilary for his work on the Association's finances.

Election of Officers:

John Robbins suggested that, as all post-holders from 2024-25 were willing to be re-appointed, and that no-one else had expressed a wish in advance to seek election (and no-one came forward at the meeting), that the current post-holders be re-elected en-bloc. This was agreed.

President:	Pam Gooding
Chairperson:	John Robbins
Secretary:	John Deaton
Treasurer:	Hilary Nash

Re-appointment of Office-holders proposed By Roland Gibbard, seconded by Martin Bates. Accepted.

Officials Secretary (T&F)	Steve Grant
Officials Secretary (Endurance)	Steve Grant
Cross-Country Coordinator	John Deaton
Road Running Coordinator	Arthur Renshaw
Track and Field Coordinator	(Matters handled by Debbie Brooks, Steve Grant, Hilary Nash and John Robbins)
Sportshall Coordinator	Dave Turner
Welfare Officer	James Murphy
Webmaster	John Deaton
Coaching Coordinator	Jim Strudwick

Appointments proposed by Roland Gibbard, seconded by James Murphy. Accepted.

Election of Trustees: John Robbins was nominated to serve as Trustee until the 2029 AGM. Jim Strudwick (till AGM 2027) and Ray Gooding (till AGM 2028) continue in post.

Election of Independent Examiner: Nick Till was proposed for re-appointment subject to consent.

Motion from Robert Lavis (Yate & Sodbury Striders):

"In line with UK Athletics, the EA Governing Body British Masters Athletics and almost all Championship County bodies as directed by UKA adopt the World Masters Age Groups.

"World Athletics Master Age Groups in 5 year bands are accepted as the standard basis of all championships by affiliated bodies. Avon AA should adopt the World Masters age Groups for all of their championships, including Cross Country. This will be appreciated by Master Athletes who are the fastest growing sector of EA registrations.

"Although Avon AA is an independent body, the Athletes should be able to run in a County Championship the same as if in a Masters Championship.

"We do have a separate Track Masters and 5 year age groups are adhered to at the 10k and 10 mile road champs. I would also propose that the Road Relay Champs should follow the BMAF model of 10 year teams starting at 35, 45, 55 and 65. This will make a more inclusive model." [End of Motion]

Motion from: John Robbins (Chairperson Avon AA up to 2026 AGM)
Pam Gooding (President Avon AA up to 2026 AGM)
John Deaton (General Secretary Avon AA up to 2026 AGM)
Hilary Nash (Treasurer Avon AA up to 2026 AGM)

"The meeting recognises the changes to the UKA age group categories and a need to clarify the Association's existing policy on the award of medals at County Championship Events. It instructs the Officers to undertake a review of the policy and criteria for the award of medals at County Championships and present recommendations for a revised policy and criteria for approval at the next full Executive Committee meeting." [End of Motion]

Given that Agenda Item 12 (the Motion from the Officers) was in effect a refutation of Agenda Item 11, the Chairperson decided that a vote would be taken on Item 12 only. Item 12 was carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at about 7.35pm.