

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes [UNRATIFIED] of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 19th 2026, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Participants: David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Steve Grant (Track and Field Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Road Running Coordinator). John Robbins (Chairperson), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

Apologies for Non-Participation: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), Andy Heyes (Clevedon AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (24th November 2025): accepted.

Matters Arising: None not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Distributed in advance; copies available on request. Hilary had recently put in an order for extra Avon AA vests (cost: around £20). The Accounts were accepted.

Officials Secretary's Report: Steve Grant had nothing to report.

Avon AA wet-weather jackets: Steve will assess interest among Avon AA Track and Field Officials for similar garments. If an order is placed, we would ask for the same £20 contribution to cost as requested from the Endurance Officials.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. The Avon AA 10km Championships for 2026 will be incorporated in the Hogweed 10km, on Monday 8th June. The appropriate Avon AA medals will be made available.
2. Building work scheduled for late Summer of 2026 is likely to be prevent the Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile from being held there in the Autumn of 2026. Arthur Renshaw will look for suitable nearby promotions, possibly outside of the County.
3. SW London Mini Marathon Trials (Westpoint, near M5 Junction 30 at Exeter, Sunday 15th February): as well as the Trials races, there would be races for Ambulant and Wheelchair athletes, plus three-stage relays (two male and one female, or two females and one male).

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. Tri-Counties XC Championships (December 14th): The racing part of the meeting went well; there were some problems with the entries and results provision. The turnouts for some races younger athletes was disappointing (only four Avon competitors in the Under-13 Girls race?).

John Robbins suggested that some of the races (e.g. Under-15 Boys and Under-15 Girls) could be combined, to help to cut down the length of the meeting (a significant factor for a December meeting).

2. South-West XC Championships (January 3rd, RNAS Merryfield): this went ahead successfully. The event may have to be held at a different part of the year next season.

3. John Deaton will again be the Lead Organiser for the Avon & Somerset team for the 2025-26 season UK CAU Cross-Country Championships (Saturday 7th March, Nottingham). It is likely that the next two Championships will be on January 9th 2027 and January 8th 2028, presumably meaning a change to the date of the South-West XC Championships.

There were still no arrangements for a Team Tent, nor for separate Senior Men's and Senior Women's Team Managers.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. The Avon Schools Sportshall Championships will be held on Saturday January 31st at the Bristol Grammar Schools Sports Hall. The South-West Championships will be on Sunday 8th March, at Taunton, and the National Final at Fenton (Stoke on Trent) on Saturday April 11th.

2. Avon T&F Championships 2026:
 - 2.1 Sprints and Hurdles Events; Sunday April 12th, at YOSC.

 - 2.2 Main Championships: scheduled for Sunday May 10th. If Mr. Ravi Bagdi plans to bring his party of Indian athletes, he will need to be informed of the UKA change to Young Athletes Age Groups.

 - 2.3 Steeplechase, 3000m events: the dates of these may depend on whether the Somerset AA decides to hold a one-day or two-day Championships in 2026.

 - 2.4 Entry fees: A small increase may be justified, but it would be worth checking what neighbouring Counties are doing.

 - 2.5 Masters Open meeting: Sunday 28th June, at YOSC.

Adaptive Athletics. There will be a Special Olympics National Meeting at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, from August 28th to August 30th 2026.

Information from Outside Bodies: Clubs seeking to re-affiliate with England Athletics at April 1st 2026 will need to have met all seven Club Standards. They should contact Richard Ayling of EA to discuss any issues.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: The Track at Bath University is due for refurbishment in the later part of the summer of 2026.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting (incorporating the AGM): Monday 23rd March 2026, 7.00pm., by Zoom.

Meeting Closed at about 8.05pm.