

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes [UNRATIFIED] of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 23rd 2026, by Zoom, starting at 7.40pm.

Those Taking Part: 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), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Chairperson / Life Vice-President), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

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 Committee Meeting (19th January 2026): accepted.

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

Treasurer's Report: Distributed in advance; copies available on request.

Officials Secretary's Report: Steve Grant had nothing to report other than stated in the Secretary's Report.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. Bath Half Marathon: this has now been taken over by the organisers of the London Marathon. Roland Gibbard has raised concerns with them about the arrangements at the Lower Bristol Road junction, but has not received a response.
2. SW London Mini Marathon Trials (Westpoint, near M5 Junction 30 at Exeter, Sunday 15th February): these went ahead successfully, although the Open-Age Relays were feebly supported. [Post-meeting Note: John Deaton has received and published the list of South-West selected athletes and reserves].
3. Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile: it is looking more hopeful that this race can be held at the regular course and venue this Autumn.
4. Bitton Road Runners will be staging their 5km Race Series on the first Wednesday of May / June / July / August. These races will be UKA-licenced, so their results can be recorded on Power of 10. [Note: the means that the new UKA Headphones rule will need to apply to the events].

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. South-West XC Championships: the date and venue for 2027 still have to be agreed.
2. UKA CAU Inter-Cross-Country Championships: John Deaton was disappointed at having been landed with almost the entire Avon & Somerset workload for this event. No Team Tent, nor were there separate Senior Men's and/or Senior Women's Team Managers even to recruit these teams. John Deaton will raise the matter with the Somerset AA and with the Somerset and Avon clubs active in Senior Cross-Country. If the situation cannot be resolved, there may be no A&S teams at this event in 2027.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Sportshall: the Avon teams won all four categories at the South-West Championships.

2. Avon T&F Championships 2026:
 - 2.1 Hurdles Events: going ahead on Sunday April 12th as part of the Yate & District AC Sprints and Hurdles meeting, at YOSC.
 - 2.2 Main Championships: scheduled for Sunday May 10th: Entries are open.
 - 2.3 Steeplechase, 3000m events: these will be hosted by the Somerset AA at Yeovil. Entries are open, via the Somerset AA website [Post-Meeting note: The Somerset AA will also accept entries from Avon athletes for the Under-10s Quadrathlon]
 - 2.4 Masters Open meeting: Sunday 28th June, at YOSC. The event will not incorporate the Welsh Masters Championships this year [Post-meeting Note: Change of plans: Yes. They will]. Entries are open.
 - 2.5 U14's/ U16s 1500m Championships / U11 and U12 Quadrathlon Champs. / U18s+ Avon 5000m Championships/ Open events, Tuesday June 30th, SGS Filton. Entries are open.
3. South-West T&F Championships: Sunday 19th July, Exeter.

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 Hanham Horror MT event on Sunday 5th April will be accepting entries on the day.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th May 2026, 7.00pm., by Zoom.

Meeting Closed at about 8.20pm.