

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday May 18th 2026, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Taking Part: David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), 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: : Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Andy Heyes (Clevedon AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Jim Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare Officer).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (23rd March 2026): Apologies for Non-participation: Ray Gooding was listed correctly as Life Vice-President, but was not Endurance COffSec. Otherwise: 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. Hogweed 10km: arrangements in hand. The Avon AA medals will be awarded on the same basis as in 2025.
2. Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile: it is looking more hopeful that this race can be held at the regular course and venue this Autumn. [Post-meeting Note: It is going ahead as in recent years].
3. 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: this 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. There was 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 is not resolved, there may be no A&S teams at this event in 2027.

John Robbins / John Deaton would try to arrange a remote meeting with David Cooke (Somerset AA General Secretary) and other Somerset or Avon activists.

3. Quad-Counties XC Championships (Sunday December 13th, Bath University): John Robbins was anxious that the meeting timetable should be compressed where possible, to ensure (among other factors) that the course could be dismantled speedily in (potentially) darkness or inclement weather.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Sportshall: the Avon teams won all four categories at the South-West Championships. The Under-13 Boys won the National Title again.
2. English Schools T&F Cup Round 1: The Avon events were particularly well attended this year. The meeting expressed its thanks to Dave Turner for his work on the event.
3. Avon T&F Championships 2026:
 - 3.1 Main Day (Sunday 10th May, YOSC): The meeting went ahead successfully. The Committee passed a Vote of Thanks to Debbie Brooks for her work on the meeting.
 - 3.2 Steeplechase, 3000m events: these were hosted by the Somerset AA at Yeovil, but with few Avon entrants. Medal distribution is in hand.
 - 3.3 Masters Open meeting: Sunday 28th June, at YOSC. Entries for the Hammer, Discus and Shot are currently full or nearly so. Previous experience has shown that entrant no-shows for Masters events tend to be higher than for corresponding non-Masters events
 - 3.4 U14's/ U16s 1500m Championships / U11 and U12 Quadrathlon Champs. / U18s+ Avon 5000m Championships/ Open events, Tuesday June 30th, SGS Filton. Entries are open.
4. South-West T&F Championships: Sunday 19th July, Exeter. Arrangements are in hand.
5. EA financial support for County T&F Championships: Hilary Nash did not hear about the 2026 application process in time.
6. An Avon AA Open meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1st September at SGS Filton track.

Proposal from Officers on Avon AA Medal Allocation: Due to illness and non-athletic commitments, John Robbins had not been able to co-ordinate the officers' response to the AGM notion.

Adaptive Athletics. There will be a Special Olympics National Meeting at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, from August 28th to August 30th 2026. There are various opportunities for Para-athletes in the Avon League meetings. Could access for para-athletes at SGS Filton be made easier and clearer?

Information from Outside Bodies:

1. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 19th July, Exeter): this event is on the same day as the Midland T&F League, and on the same weekend as the third round of the YDL Midland Lower Age Group competition. Avon athletes who can only support one meeting in the weekend are urged to support their Club team.
2. UK Counties Athletic Union: AGM due in September. The organisation may not be in healthy state.
3. EA South-West Volunteer Awards 2026: nominations close on June 5th.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday July 6th 2026, 7.00pm., by Zoom (if sufficient business to justify it). [Post-meeting Note: postponed to Monday September 7th].

Meeting Closed at about 8.20pm.