

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes [UNRATIFIED] of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 24th 2025, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Participants: David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), Peter Davenport (Life Member), John Deaton (General Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), Steve Grant (Track and Field Officials Secretary), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), John Robbins (Chairperson), Paul Wilman (Team Bath AC).

Apologies for Non-Participation: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Andy Heyes (Clevedon AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA). Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (15th September 2025): accepted.

Matters Arising: Clarification: The meeting mentioned by David Cooke (Somerset AA) was an Inter-Area Masters team competition, for which we would not be expected to be Lead Organisers.

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

John Robbins discussed the Avon AA Vest stock situation with Hilary Nash by telephone. The meeting authorised Hilary to re-order vests to maintain an acceptable stock level (assuming that there will be no call for County vests to be worn at the SW Cross-Country or SW T&F Championships). The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Hilary for his handling of the vests situation.

Officials Secretary's Report: Distributed in advance: copies available on request.

1. Upgradings:
 - Field - Debbie Brooks to Level 4P, Stephanie Brooks to Level 3, Richard Maddock to Level 3
 - Photo-finish - Graham Howell to Level 2
 - Endurance - Mark Thomas to Level 1
2. At a series of 3000m races at Bath University earlier in November, there were a number of disqualifications, apparently for shoes not on the World Athletics Approved list.
3. There have been several complimentary remarks about the Avon AA wet-weather jackets issued to regular Avon AA Endurance Officials. Steve Grant would assess interest among Avon AA Track and Field Officials in similar garments.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. The Avon AA 10 Mile Championships took place as part of the Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile race on Sunday 21st September.
2. Avon activists witnessing the 2025 Sodbury Slog were very impressed with the promotion and with the reported 100 Bitton Road Runners who assisted in some way with the promotion.

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. Tri-Counties XC Championships (December 14th):
 - 1.1 Arrangements are proceeding well for this event, although extra help would be welcome. With the recent purchase of extra stakes, there should be no issues over course marking.
 - 1.2 As we cannot be sure of having enough activists to identify Avon County competitors accurately, and because of concerns about possible congestion around the Finish Funnels, it was agreed not to attempt to make Avon AA individual or team medal presentations on the day.
 - 1.3 Steve Grant and John Robbins would make arrangements for the Avon AA Tent to be available at the venue.
 - 1.4 Only clubs affiliated to the Avon AA would be eligible for Avon AA Team awards.
2. South-West XC Championships (January 3rd, RNAS Merryfield):
 - 2.1 Athlete / accompanying visitors entry is now open, at <https://pci.jotform.com/form/253073421906352> . [Post-Meeting Note: other people planning to attend the meeting must register at <https://form.jotform.com/253282371762358> by December 21st].
 - 2.2 No dogs will be allowed on the site.
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.

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.
2. South-West Indoor T&F Championships 2025-6:
 - 2.1 U13s/U15s/U17s: Entries are open, split between December 7th and January 11th. Several events are sold out, or nearing that state.
 - 2.2 U20s: Weekend of 17th and 18th January. Under 13s and Under-15s may not enter these events unless Welsh-qualified. South-West medals will not be presented on the day.
 - 2.3 Seniors: Weekend of 7th and 8th February. Entry standards and/or entrant numbers apply to some of the events at these meetings. All Non-Welsh U17 athletes may only take part in the Senior championships, and must enter the relevant Senior events and have the entry standard to complete the entry. South-West medals will not be presented on the day.
 - [2.4 Post-Meeting Reminder: incorporated in the Cardiff Met. Christmas Cracker meeting on Sunday December 14th will be the South-West U17/U20/Senior 3000m Championships (no other events are South-West Championships). Medals will not be presented on the day]

3. Avon T&F Championships 2016:

3.1 Debbie Brooks had contacted neighbouring Counties to see if there were possibilities for combined Championships. Gloucestershire: interested in discussing further. Somerset: uncertain, with concerns about Quadkids and reaction of local Independent Schools. Wiltshire: no response yet.

3.2 It is still open for discussion whether the Under-12s would compete in Quadkids events or in a selection of the traditional T&F events.

[3.3 The proposals for other T&F dates which might include Avon AA medals events are (as at November 27th):

Masters Open - most likely date is Sunday 7th June (YOSC is being provisionally booked)

Tuesday 30th June including Avon Champ QK and U14/16 1500m (WISE provisionally booked)

- Tuesday 1st September (Open event; WISE provisionally booked)]

Adaptive Athletics. There was a Para- Cross-Country event 4km) at the UK CAU XC Championships last March: John Deaton will check whether there will be a similar event in 2026.

Information from Outside Bodies: The English Schools Athletic Association decision on Age Groups: no further developments.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th January 2026, 7.00pm., by Zoom.

Meeting Closed at about 8.25pm.