

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes [UNRATIFIED] of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 7th 2026, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Taking Part: David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Roland Gibbard (Co-Opted Member), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), Steve Grant (Track and Field Officials Secretary), Bob Lavis (Yate & Sodbury Striders), 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), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (18th May 2026): accepted.

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

Treasurer's Report: Distributed in advance; copies available on request. The Zoom subscription comes up for renewal in late September (£139-90).

Officials Secretary's Report: Distributed in advance (copies available on request). Up-gradings:

Starter's Assistant: Liam Hillier to L2; Starter: Liam Hillier to L2.

Timekeepers: Chloe Parson and Arwel Roberts to L1; Caroline Howorth to L2

Track Officials: Dave Cook, Keira Devereux and James Drennan to L1

Field Officials: James Drennan, Rob Grove, Karen Haynes and Amanda Sutherland to L1;

Nick Cullimore-Davis and Gail Watson to L2;

Christianne McKenzie and John Smerdon to L3.

Of 100 active officials, 75% gained their first qualification within the last 5 years.

Members were concerned about an EA announcement that accreditation cards will no longer be issued to Officials, especially as higher-level meetings were insistent about the appropriate accreditation being carried visibly. Officials' status can be checked via the EA website, but Wi-Fi connections cannot always be relied on. Steve Grant had contacted EA about this, but the ruling (apparently on cost grounds) would seem to be a fait accompli.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. Hogweed 10km, Cleeve Road Relays: both events went ahead successfully.
2. Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile (Sunday 20th September): arrangements are in hand. This is expected to be the final event at this venue; we may need to consider replacing the Avon 10 Mile Championships with a suitable Half Marathon event.
3. Bristol 10km / Half Marathon 2026: there were late notifications of changes to earlier parts of the course (city-centre road works?) which involved hurried location changes to some drinks stations.
4. There is an EA Race Director course, scheduled for Saturday 17th October at YOSC.

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. Quad-Counties Championships (Bath University, Sunday 13th December): arrangements in hand.
2. South-West XC Championships: this event will be held on **Sunday 3rd January**, at RNAS Merryfield again.
3. UKA CAU Inter-Cross-Country Championships: Contact with the Somerset AA still to be arranged

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Sportshall: the Avon Schools Championships will be held on Saturday January 30th at the Bristol Grammar School Sports Hall.
2. Avon AA Open T&F meeting September 1st: went ahead successfully, although with limited participation, possibly due to the meeting being so close to the late August Bank Holiday.
3. YDL Upper Age Group: Team Avon finished fifth in the National Final. The track staff were over-zealous in closing down the meeting, including premature draining of the Steeplechase water-jump.
4. Avon T&F Championships 2027: Debbie Brooks had been in contact with neighbouring Counties to discuss possible partial combination of events. The Wiltshire AA have suggested that Endurance events be held on the Friday of Championships weekend at Swindon, with the main events (plus Quadkids) being held at Yate on the Saturday or Sunday. The Gloucestershire AA would like to consult further with their members.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Hilary Nash for his work in arranging the medals for the various Championships.

Proposal from Officers on Avon AA Medal Allocation: (copies available on request): the Officers' recommendation was approved by 5 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions. John Robbins undertook that the effects of the proposals would be looked at following next season's Championships, and urged that meeting organisers make their results available so that this can be done.

Adaptive Athletics: there are a number of events incorporated in the Avon League fixture on September 13th.

Information from Outside Bodies: MCAA and UK CAU AGM's are coming up.

Information from member Clubs / Associations:

1. The Bath University track is currently being re-laid, and is due for completion by September 20th.
2. Thornbury Running Club sadly announces the passing of Dave Matthews, one of the founder members of the club and a long-term activist.
3. Six members of Yate & Sodbury Striders gained medals in the Forest of Dean Trails Half-Marathon.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: late November / early December; John Robbins and John Deaton to discuss date.

Meeting Closed at about 8.30pm.