



Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club

Quality Facilities and Expert Athletic Coaching

April 2025

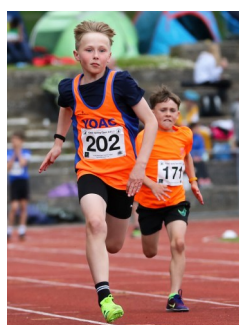
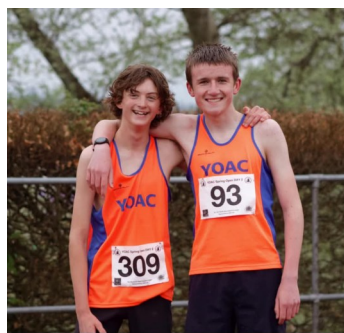
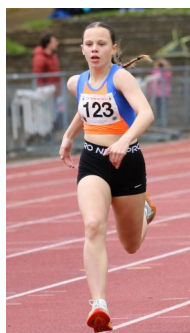
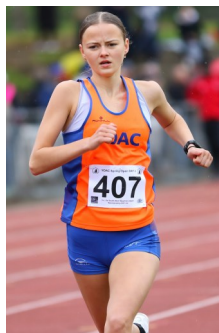
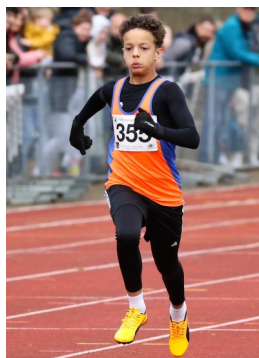
Edition 8

The YOAC Yammer

Spring Open Success

Easter bank holiday weekend was an absolute hive of activity at the Bill Whistlecroft Arena with over 1000 event entries across the 2 days of the YOAC spring open event—a superb season opener for many athletes. There were YOAC vests everywhere but also many athletes who had travelled from all over the country for an opportunity to compete. The spring open provides a full programme of events—flat races, hurdles and steeplechase on the track, plus all the jumps and throws from veterans down to under 13s. The fixture also hosts a full U11 KMC programme—the competition for children under 11 years of age who can now achieve rankings in the same way other age groups do. There was a staggering number of entries in this

years U11 event, making for a fun logistical challenge for officials. With PBs being achieved by dozens of athletes it is impossible to single out performances but it has certainly provided an excellent opener for team managers to consider teams for the first league fixture of the season on May 4th.



Key Club Contacts

- President: Noel Frost
- Chairman: Geoff Cole
- Secretary: Jacquie Silcox
- Treasurer: Paul D'Arcy

League Team Managers:

- National League: Jacquie Silcox / Paul Guest
- U20 and Senior Men: Geoff Cole
- U17 and U15 Men: Claire and Olly Slight
- U20 and Senior Women: Chris Huntley
- U17 and U15 Girls: Amy Joynes (U17 with Chris H)
- All U13s Larry Tulett

Contact details on website and in membership email

Upcoming Key Dates

(hyperlinked to entries where applicable)

SWAL 1	May 5th (Exeter)
Somerset County Champs	May 10th / 11th (Yeovil)
Dorset County Champs	May 10th / 11th (Poole)
YOAC Evening Open	May 29th (Yeovil)
NAL 1	May 31st (Yeovil)

www.yeovilolympiads.com

YOAC Community – Supporting Your Club

Like most sports clubs, Yeovil Olympiads runs on volunteers. It is easy to get involved and help to ensure our club continues to operate long into the future and continue its huge success in providing for the local community. Each month we will showcase ways in which you can get involved.

Officiating Becoming an official is a simple and fun way to enjoy athletics regardless of your age or experience. Volunteer officials almost always start by just picking up a rake and raking a log jump pit, or replacing a bar at the high jump, or moving hurdles to the correct marks. None of these crucial tasks require any experience or qualifications but athletics competitions would not happen without them. Many officials choose to grow their learning and experience by taking qualifications and progressing up through the officiating levels. In order for competitions to be licensed and recorded there must be a certain number of officials who have progressed through the qualifications to the highest grade of level 4. These officials can then support the many other volunteers needed. Did you know it takes at least 3 officials to run each field event? And with many events taking place at the same time it is easy to see why so many officials are needed. You can find out more about officiating [here](#) from the England Athletics pathway, or chat to any of the team at the club.



Coaching Just like officiating, to get started in coaching requires no qualifications as long as YOAC has qualified coaches to support new volunteers. And just like officiating, volunteers can choose to become qualified and learn more about their sport and how to maximise their impact with athletes by progressing through the England Athletics coaching pathway. In athletics there are many highly technical events like hurdles, javelin and pole vault. To participate in these events requires specialist coaching. YOAC is lucky to have highly qualified and experienced technical coaches across the full range of events but in many cases, only 1 coach per event, limiting the number of athletes able to benefit from expertise and progress in a wide range of disciplines. It is crucial, particularly for our youngsters, that the club is able to grow its team of coaches to enable YOAC to offer more support to more young people. To learn more about coaching and how you can get involved and continue to support our athletes, chat to any of the team or find out more [here](#). You do not need any experience, simply an interest in helping the next generation of athletes at our club.



Competition Reminders

South West League (SWAL)

The first of four South West League events will take place on **May 4th**. All events are held at Exeter Arena as the central venue for clubs across the region. The South West League not only offers a great opportunity for competition but also brings with it a club atmosphere with all YOAC competitors contributing to the team's points. It is a chance for athletes to have a bit of fun and try new events in order to support the team's points tally for each event and YOAC's placing towards overall success at the end of the season.



The club's success in the league is dependent on entries through Team managers who are listed on the website and on the first page of this newsletter. Please contact your team manager for information about your events.

County Championships

On May the 10th and 11th the Bill Whistlecroft Arena will host the Somerset AA Championships where county champions across all age groups will be crowned. It is a great event with many of YOAC's athletes coming away with impressive medal hauls!

Following the county championships, some athletes will be selected to form a Somerset team for the South West Championships held later in the year. Age group athletes (U13, U15, U17) can enter up to three events on each day. There will be a full U11 programme on Sunday 11th. Entries will be closing very soon. All other county championships will be held on the same day. The Dorset event is in Poole. Click in the link above for Somerset entries.



Sapphire League

The Sapphire League is now well underway but with more than 12 event days left in the Sapphire League open events calendar there are plenty more opportunities to get involved and compete for one of the league's prestigious awards. The Sapphire League is the South West's answer to the well known Diamond League. Athletes from U17 upwards can enter the league via the website. They select the events they wish to compete in for the season and then enter themselves into the range of Open Events where Sapphire League is applicable.

This year the league is sponsored by HHP Limited. Good Luck to all YOAC athletes entering.

