



Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club

Quality Facilities and Expert Athletic Coaching

August 2025

Edition 12

The YOAC Yammer

Athletes shine at National events

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)

[YOAC](#) **August 28th**
[Open 4](#) (BWAA)

SWAL 4 **Sept 7th**
(Exeter)

[Yeovil Games](#) **Sept 13th**
(BWAA)

www.yeovilolympiads.com

The track and field season sees a range of opportunities for athletes to compete at national level.

Every year YOAC has a host of athletes achieving places in County teams for the English Schools Athletics Championships and 2025 was no exception.

Athletes selected for the Somerset team were Oskar Beck (Whitstone School), Mimi Woodliffe (Millfield), Ellie Danner (Millfield), Rosie Joynes (Westfield Academy), Isaac Slight (Stanchester Academy), Ellie Roe (Huish Episcopi Academy), Tom Webb (Millfield) and Alex Armstrong (Huish Episcopi Academy) and for the Dorset team, Oliver Bradford-Peck (Gillingham School) and Lucy Bickerton (Leweston).



YOAC saw three of its athletes make the top five in English Schools finals. The stand-out performance came from one of the club's newest members, Oliver Bradford-Peck, who showed his talent to win gold in the 800m with an incredible 1.56.80 – just seven-tenths of a second outside the championship record and placing him as Number 1 ranked Under 15 in the UK this season. Lucy Bickerton in her final English Schools saw her placing of fourth with a superb 5-second PB in the 1500m steeplechase. Ellie Roe in her first year at Senior level, finished fifth with a superb javelin throw beyond 40m.



YOAC's Oliver went on to compete in the England Athletics age-group championships in early August where he qualified for the 800m but also the 300m. Oliver won a superb silver in the 800m final.

Two of Yeovil's senior athletes also saw incredible success at this year's senior national championships. Ellen Barber competed in the heptathlon at the England Senior Championships – coming away with a superb gold medal. The following week in the Novuna UK Athletics Championship, long-time Yeovil Olympiad Elise Thorner achieved one of her lifetime ambitions of gold in the UK 3000m steeplechase final. Elise, started competing for Yeovil as an Under 11 athlete, not only won gold but also smashed the UK Championship Record in a superb race where she led from the front and secured herself a spot in Team GB's line-up for the 2025 World Championships next month. All of us at YOAC wish Elise the very best of luck in Tokyo.



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.

Easy Fundraising

With the change in ownership of the Bill Whistlecroft Arena, fundraising for the club's equipment is vital. The club is looking into a range of ways fundraising can be achieved but probably the simplest and most immediate is through APPS and online platforms that anyone can use to raise money without it costing the individual. With the support of fundraising the club can, repair equipment, improve storage of equipment, increase the quantities of implements and equipment and provide kit for athletes.

Members of YOAC have signed up to 'Easy Fundraising' which is simple and enables you to track your contributions.

Parent, team manager and official Claire Slight has been using it for a while. We asked her to share her experience.

"I have been using Easy Fundraising for a year now and have raised over £400 for YOAC. It was really easy to set up an account and choose YOAC as the charity I wanted to benefit, I then downloaded an add on for my computer and the app on my phone. Whenever I make an eligible online purchase it asks me if I would like Easy Fundraising to collect the donation. It is so easy, it costs me nothing but really benefits the club and our athletes, so please all sign up especially with Christmas shopping around the corner! The link is www.easyfundraising.org.uk "



easyfundraising

JOHN LEWIS
& PARTNERS



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National League Finals

The National Athletics League is the highest-level team competition Yeovil Olympiads competes in. With the competition only open to



senior athletes and U17s who have achieved tough qualifying standards, the fixtures are reliant on a small group of adults from across the combined YOAC and Wells Harriers collaboration, along with athletes opting to compete for YOAC as their second claim club. Having put in an incredible performance in the 3rd fixture of the year in Cardiff, to claim a spot in the National play offs for promotion to the premierships, YOAC travelled to the Horspath Arena in Oxford on August 16th for the play off competition.

With YOAC not expecting to achieve a play-off spot, the team was short of numbers travelling to the Horspath Arena



in Oxford but it was not short of passion and yet again some superb performances demonstrated that YOAC is a club with strong ambitions for the future. The Championship final sees the top two from each regional division play off for two spots in the Premiership and a chance to compete against the top clubs and athletes in the UK. The fixture was always a tall order for YOAC who have never competed in the Premiership and placed YOAC up against Sale Harriers, Swansea, Tonbridge, Herts Phoenix, Crawley, York and Chelmsford, all of them highly rated in the athletics world. Despite the exceptionally high level of competition YOAC put in some incredible performances with five finishes for Lewis Guest (1st) in the triple jump and (4th) in the long jump, Lucy Bickerton (2nd) in the 2000m steeplechase, Ellie Roe (2nd) in the javelin, Lottie Garrett (3rd) in the triple jump and Ben Jones (1st) in the javelin. Well done YOAC's NAL team for a superb season.





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Outstanding 2025 SWAL performance

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Winter Season Competition

11th Oct	Gwent league X/C	Port Talbot
25th Nov	Wessex league X/C	Canford Heath
2nd Nov	Wessex league X/C	Bryanston School

For details of indoor events please visit:

[Yeovil Olympiads Athletic](https://www.yoac.co.uk)

The South West Athletics League is the only league for YOACs track and field athletes that enables athletes of all ages to compete. With every event being held in Exeter, the central point for a very large region, YOAC team managers have quite a task on their hands to field full teams who are able to make the journey to Exeter.

The 2025 SWAL season kicked off to a great start way back in May but with only 4 fixtures in the calendar, every point at every event counts. YOAC went into the final event on September 7th lying in 3rd place out of the 12 teams but just one point ahead of Taunton AC. The final match was all about retaining a top three place.



With limitations on how many events age group athletes are able to compete in, YOAC often looks to its seniors athlete to add to the points tally by competing in a multitude of events. Steph Colis put in a fantastic performance for the senior women's team, earning a great points tally as the only senior women available. Steph took on every throwing event for the team achieving an incredible 77 points for the club. With so few seniors available, U17 athletes Zoe Huntley and Lexi-Mae Faulkner moved up an age group to maximise scoring opportunities—both putting in superb performances in the sprints. In the points totals, the senior women are combined with the U17s and together the combined team of just 10 athletes finished the day 2nd with several athletes ensuring they maximised point scoring chances across 3 events—Rosie Joynes achieving 63 points across pole vault, discus and long jump and Michaela Ralph 62 points in the 100m, 200m and long jump.

YOACs senior men put out a strong team of 13 athletes for the final fixture and gained some superb wins with Lewis Guest in the 100m and triple jump and Andrew Faulkner in the 400m hurdles. Lewis's 100m time on the day of 10.96 was a fantastic PB to end a phenomenal season for the senior athlete.



Team performance of the day though must go to YOACs U15 girls. The small team of just 7 athletes put in a stand out performance with at least one athlete in every event. The team saw wins in the pole vault with Daisy Thorman and hammer with Seri-Ann Merrick but their winning formula came from athletes picking up valuable points by covering the schedule—well done to the U15 team of Isla, Elspeth, Emily, Tilly, Mia, Seri-Ann and Daisy.

With an incredibly long day of competing, YOAC struggled to field relay teams across the age groups and so the final points tally went right to the wire and count backs. The club though did retain its position of 3rd in the league achieved only by those crucial extra match points that athletes achieve by stepping in and competing in additional events. Third in the league of twelve clubs from across the South West is a great performance from what is often a very small but committed team of athletes.

Well done to all the athletes and officials who have contributed to this result for the club this year. Next year the league will take on a different shape with the new England Athletics age groups coming into force so it is great for the club to finish this last competition under this framework in such a great position.



YOAC Community – Winter is coming!

YOAC is an all year round club so although the track and field season is over, training continues, competition continues in the form of indoor events and very well supported cross country events and we have our November awards night and fun Christmas socials to look forward to!

Annual Awards Night

The YOAC annual awards night takes place on Saturday 8th November at Westlands Entertainment Venue. The evening provides a great opportunity for the club to come together and celebrate fantastic achievements from all its members. Tickets will be going on sale soon—look out for information by email and be sure to book early—the event sold out in 2024.

During the evening the club will also be having a bit of fun with the quiz and raffle to help raise much needed funds. The committee secures fantastic prizes for the raffle but additional donations are always needed. A box for prize donations will be put in the club house. Every penny we



raise goes back into the club and benefits our athletes so any donations bottles / chocolates / Christmas goodies / children's gifts etc would be greatly appreciated.



Winter Training

Club training continues at the BWAA throughout the winter on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As winter draws in and the club-house refurbishments are completed, Thursday evening will include conditioning for those wishing to take part.

On Saturdays throughout the winter endurance / cross country training takes place at 10am in Ninesprings Country Park. Sessions are open to any members wanting to join. To assist in planning, attendees are asked to sign up in advance using the jotform link [YOAC XC Training 2025/26](#) Confirmed dates in October are the 4th, 11th and 18th with the first cross country league events taking place on the 26th.

Details of all events can be found in the new YOAC Community WhatsApp group—XC group. An invite to join the group can be found here [WhatsApp Group Invite](#).



Yeovil Games

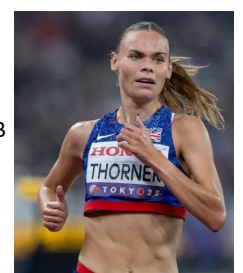
YOAC's season finale at the Bill Whistlecroft Arena saw record breaking entries once again with an incredibly packed timetable on both the field and track. With almost every event sold out, the fixture was a fitting end to a great season for the club. There were exceptional performances right across the age categories but special mention must go to the hammer event which saw three club records broken in one event and all by athletes only taking up the event this season. In the senior women's Emma Greenaway broke her own record set earlier this season with an outstanding throw over 43 metres, Steve May broke the senior men's record and in the U15 girls Seri-Ann Merrick, who has been improving all season, broke the girls record. With YOACs open events growing in popularity all the time, members are advised to get the Spring Open in their diaries ready for 2026—the event always taking place either side of Easter Sunday. Thank you to all volunteers who have made the Open series such an incredible success this year.



YOAC's World Championships Finalist

Wednesday August 26th saw the announcement of the GB & NI team for the World Athletics Championships held in the Japanese capital Tokyo. Yeovil Olympiad's Elise Thorner was named as part of a 76 strong team for Tokyo, to line up in the 3000m steeplechase. The 24 year old former Somerset schools athlete has excelled in her first year as a New Balance sponsored professional athlete, gaining her first senior medal in the European XC Championships in December and winning a domestic UK Championship title on 2nd August in Birmingham in the 3000m steeplechase, with a new Championship record. Thorner broke through onto the international track stage by lining up for her debut in the Diamond League in Oslo in June, finishing

7th and following that up with a 4th place finish at the rain soaked Lausanne Diamond League in Switzerland on 20th August. Out in Tokyo on 15th September Elise ran an impeccable heat in the 3000m steeplechase, seeing her gain automatic qualifying for the World Championship final—an absolute dream come true for the Somerset athlete and gaining her Novuna GB and NI Team performance of the day. Elise went on to finish 11th in the World Final—and 2nd European. What an incredible inspiration for YOACs athletes.



South West Athletics League

final standings

Age Group	Match Position match 4	Overall League Position
Overall	6th	3rd
U13B	11th	11th
U13G	12th	11th
U15B	7th	5th
U15G	1st	3rd
U17 M	4th	4th
SW/U20W/ U17W	2nd	3rd
SM/U20M	4th	4th