



# Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club

Quality Facilities and Expert Athletic Coaching

June 2025

Edition 10

## The YOAC Yammer

### 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)

NAL 3      July 19th  
(Cardiff)

SWAL 3      July 27th  
(Exeter)

YOAC      July 31st  
Open      (Yeovil)  
Evening 3

## National Athletics League Success at First Outing for 2025

The National Athletics League is the highest level competition the club competes in and is for senior athletes plus U17s who have achieved particular qualifying standards.



The first event of the 2025 season was hosted by Yeovil at the Bill Whitecroft Arena. Yeovil are in the Championship League West with Swansea Harriers, Cardiff, Winchester & District, Basingstoke & Mid Hants and Yate & District.



Last season the club worked hard with a small team to finish the season in 5th place. Getting the best possible start to the season was vital in improving this placing for 2025.

With a home fixture to kick off the season and a definite will to improve upon last years position, the club put out their biggest team to date with 32 athletes competing in the YOAC colours, 11 of



them for their first time in the NAL..

The incredible turn out ensured the team were able to achieve points in every event across the men's and women's teams. Event wins came from Sawyer Wragg in the

200m, Charlotte Preece in the 1500m, Tom Webb in the 3000m and Robbie Lopez-Smith in the pole vault. Tom Webb's time of 8 minutes 38.45 was an age group best performance for the meeting. There were also a whole host of high placements across other events and almost half the team achieving at least one personal best with an incredible club record in the senior women's hammer from Emma Greenaway with 38.68.



Results of the NAL, as with the South West Athletics League includes points for providing officials, a full team of officials in place for YOAC ensured the team also achieved these additional points.

The meeting was an incredible success with both the men's and women's teams finishing a superb second and the team overall finishing in second place in this first fixture behind a very strong Swansea team—a perfect start to the 2025 NAL season. Well done to all who competed or officiated—and excellent YOAC result.

## 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.

### Team Managers

YOAC needs a number of team managers to select and look after athletes for league events. As with all roles for the club, the managers are volunteers who give their time to ensure athletes can compete to a good standard and the club is able to retain its position and reputation as a competitive team taking part at highly respectable levels. Ideally there is one team manager per team who can understand athletes strengths and provide consistent support and communication. Currently YOAC does not have enough volunteers to operate one manager per team with several looking after two teams. With only four league fixtures per year the role does not require significant time but does become challenging when numbers of volunteers are low. As with all voluntary roles, the manager role is exceptionally rewarding, watching athletes progress and achieve superb results. If you have around eight hours per season available to support one of our teams please let any of the managers know, they will happily explain the role and provide any support required.



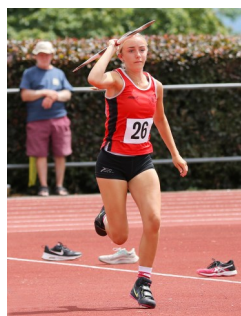
### Facilities

YOAC is blessed with superb facilities at the Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena, now owned by Yeovil Town Council. The track though is used by an extraordinary number of people, not just Yeovil Olympiads. Members of the public are able to purchase a pass for the track or pay to use facilities through the council just as they do to use other facilities at Mudford recreation Ground. The track is also home to road running clubs and hosts all the Yeovil secondary school sports days as well as primary schools festivals and the high level of competitions that many YOAC members have supported or competed in, as well as all our own club events. Facilities such as the BWAA are costly to maintain though and it is vital that YOAC's own members take care to retain the strong relationship with our council to ensure the upkeep of the facilities remains consistently high. Members training outside club hours must purchase a track pass or pay for usage at the kiosk in the rec. Members should ensure all club equipment is retained on site and available to all users and report any issues. With a continued strong relationship with the Council, we will be able to maintain our facilities for many years to come.



### Schools Success for YOAC athletes

Athletes from YOAC experienced incredible success in the recent round of school championships. Following area school events, athletes were selected to compete for their area at their county schools championships. The vast majority of YOAC athletes compete at either the Somerset or Dorset County Schools Championships. Each county then selects a team for the South West Schools Championships held in Exeter every year. Athletes then eagerly await County selection announcements for next months prestigious English Schools Athletics Championships at the Alexander



Stadium in Birmingham. Dozens of YOAC athletes were selected to compete at the South West Schools Championships in Exeter with some outstanding performances leading to English Schools selection for 8 YOAC athletes into the Somerset team and 1 in the Dorset Schools team. Congratulations to Oskar Beck, Mimi Woodliffe, Ellie Danner, Rosie Joynes, Isaac Slight, Ellie Roe, Tom Webb, Alex Armstrong and Lucy Bickerton. YOAC athletes were also selected recently to compete for Somerset at the South West Schools combined events champion-

ships where athletes compete in their age group equivalent of a Heptathlon or Decathlon for their county. In the South West Schools Combined Events congratulations go to Isaac Slight for his selection and performance in the Somerset team for intermediate boys octathlon and Mimi Woodliffe, Rosie Joynes and Elisha Guppy making up 3/4 of the Somerset team in the intermediate girls heptathlon. Both these teams finishing in second place. The future of athletics in Yeovil is certainly looking strong.



### League Round Up

#### South West Athletics League—after Match 1

Age Group	Match Position (out of 12)	Overall League Position
<b>Overall</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
U13B	12th	12th
U13G	11th	11th
U15B	7th	7th
U15G	2nd	2nd
U17 M	7th	7th
SW/U20W/ U17W	2nd	2nd
SM/U20M	2nd	2nd

#### National Athletics League—after Match 1

Pos	Club	Match pts	League pts
1	Swansea	6	635
2	YOAC	5	528
3	Cardiff	4	458
4	Basingstoke	3	399.5
5	Yate	2	394
6	Winchester	1	289.5