

Gloucestershire Amateur Athletics Association

Executive Committee Meeting

Held at the Gala Club, Gloucester

On Friday 13th June 2025

1. Present

Arthur Daley, Andy Hawkins, Elliot Prince, Andrew Kaighan, Martin Brook, Derrick Lord, Phil Jeyes, Steve Hudson, Lynn Hudson, Paul Wilkins, Wendy Sutton, Mandy Neufield, Albert Gardiner

Apologies

Ruth Fairford, Hugh Griffiths, Amber Watson

2. Agreement of the Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes from Friday 11th April 2025 as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

- Race Directors course – Held in May 2025.
- We have bought 2 Power packs.
- Gloucester AC staged the 3000m County Champs race at their recent Open meeting.
- We have renewed our membership of Gloucester Playing Fields Association.

4. Treasurers Report

- In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no report.

5. Road Race Secretary's Report

Phil's report was distributed prior to the meeting and is as follows:

- *As of the beginning of June, the first four events have been completed (the Cirencester 10k will have been completed by the time of this meeting):*

Boddington 10 28-Jan completed

Berkeley Fission 20 23-Mar completed

Bourton One Mile cc 10-May completed

Stroud Beer Race 28-May completed

Cirencester 10k 9-Jun (completed by 11-Jun)

Blaisdon 10k July date tbc

Bugatti 10k 6-Aug entries open

Cranham Boundary Chase September date tbc

Angels 10k cc 15-Sep entries open

Bourton Half cc 29-Sep entries open

Sharpness 4 October date tbc

Guy Fawkes 5 2-Nov to be opened

- *I have been advised that Bourton Roadrunners expressed a concern over the issue of county championship medals at the One Mile event, with it inferred that they may no longer wish this to be a championship race. I will follow this up.*
- *I am awaiting confirmation of dates for the Blaisdon 10k (Forest of Dean AC), Cranham Boundary Chase (Severn AC) and Sharpness 4 (Dursley RC) and am in contact with the respective organisers, with the aim of having these as soon as possible.*
- *A proposal was put forward, at the last meeting, to remove any clubs – and associated runners – from the series competition if the county affiliation fees were not paid by an as-yet-unspecified date. As we are now almost midway through the calendar year, and with five races in the series completed, I would like to repeat this proposal.*
- *I would suggest that we contact any club, with such fees outstanding, and make them aware of this intention, with a deadline of 30th June to either address the affiliation or be removed from the 2025 series.*

Phil's report was accepted

- After discussion, there is nothing in the rules to prevent New Berkeley Harriers taking part in the Road Race Series.

- Angels 10k was confirmed as the 10k County Road Championship Race.
- The Sharpness 4 race date TBC.
- Affiliation queries – Cotswold Allrunners, Forest of Dean Athletic Club, North Cotswold Tri and Run have still to pay affiliation fees.

6. **Cross County Secretary's Report**

- The dates for the 2025/26 Cross Country season were discussed :
 - Yate is not available on 12/10/2025
 - Cirencester is available for the November fixture, 01/11/2025
 - Bath possibly available on 14/12/2025.
 - Cheltenham Pitville Park available for the February Fixture, 14/02/2026
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- Most runners prefer an individual entry rather than a team entry.
- We will look into Chip and Pin for 3 out of the 4 races. Bath will not be considered as it is a joint event with other counties. Wendy, Steve, Martin and Phil to be part of a Working Group to sort out Chip and Pin.

7. **Track and Field Championships 2025**

- Please see below Arthur's report:

Review

1. We had 258 entrants taking part in 522 events.
2. We had 35 officials of which 17 were track and 18 field. This gave field officials a very busy and demanding day with little or no break. Ideally we would have double that number so that, for example, the long throws team could alternate judging pools.
3. The timetable had several changes and was available on Saturday 10th afternoon. My impression is that Long jump and 100m events had a significant increase in entries over the previous year.
4. Drinks and toilets at the new sports and community centre seemed to work well.
5. I couldn't find a photo finish provider for the event.

For next year

1. This will be our first event with the new young athlete age groups (U12,14,16,18,20). This is one more age group than this year (U13,U15,U17, U20) and could lead to a very crowded timetable.
2. We need, especially for the field officials to reduce the work load.
 - a. We can promote some field events in open meetings. The Gloucester AC meeting in April and the Cheltenham H Brewer Games are ideal for this as they attract local competitors and are around the same time. Both clubs are amenable to this.
 - b. We could consider incorporating some field event age group championship into the Cheltenham H Midsummer meetings. However as those are short meetings that may not be easy or possible.
 - c. We could reduce – as some counties do – the size of the field pool by imposing a limit. Yate and Avon AAA promote a masters meeting in early June. I've asked if we could incorporate the masters GAAA Championships into that meeting but they are not keen as it could add to the complexity if it was done officially.
 - d. We could try to increase the number of qualified officials. This as we know is not easy. Placing some age group championships in other meetings may enable the field teams to have breaks.
 - e. We could reduce the track timetable by putting hurdles events on a separate day as Avon AAA has done.
 - f. We could not have U20 competitions but that would not ease the timetable as they usually compete against seniors.
3. The publication of the timetable on the day before the meeting makes it difficult to allocate duties especially for the track referee. As we have a very new situation next year I recommend that entries close 10 days before the meeting giving time for any significant changes to the timetable to be made and advised.

Below are the comments I received from officials.

As a county, there has been consistent and appreciated support for the hammer throw over the years. In fact, our County Championships for hammer have historically produced some of the best results. While I acknowledge that the current standard has dropped, it remains vital that we continue to provide athletes with competitive opportunities to help rebuild and develop the event.

I would also like to raise a concern regarding the inconsistency in the number of attempts across field events. Some competitors had five to six throws, while Shot Putt athletes were only given four. It would be beneficial for all athletes if the number of attempts were consistent across events to ensure fairness.

Looking ahead to the next committee meeting on 13th June, I would like to propose the following suggestions for consideration:

1. Consider holding one of the long throws on the Friday evening before the main competition.
2. Add a long throw event to the County 10,000m Championships.

3. Incorporate one long throw and one jumps event into the Relays Championship evening.

I would be grateful if these ideas could be added to the agenda for discussion at the upcoming meeting.

1. Running a long throw championship and horizontal jump in an open meeting is a positive move forward to lighten the load, it's just when to hold it?
2. I think reducing the number of age groups offered has to happen and think excluding the u11s would reduce loading in events and it is very early in their athletics years.
 - Not sure about excluding seniors however this has to be considered as another possibility as not many at this year's championships. What have been the numbers for both age groups over the last 5 competitive years (excluding the covid period)? Increasing u11s and decreasing seniors I expect?
 - Perhaps we take the u11s out first to see how that works and the feedback received as a result.

Other observations:

1. There did appear to be a lot of sprints this year, however managed into smaller races.
2. Lack of Seniors involved.
3. Hurdles also appears to absorb lots of time out of the timetable especially when there are Track resource constraints.
4. Many more relays this year with Stroud loading considerably, who also had u11s running in relays having not long finished longer distances.

I'm glad the day went well but for myself and the other officials it was too much. As you know, Matt Hampton and I officiated every long throw back-to-back, seven in all. The only break we took was to run up to the sports centre to the bathroom, eating our sandwiches whilst Steve Carr supervised the warm up for us. That evening, I was so tired I was in bed by 8!

I know you have said that the lack of field officials is not just limited to our county however I think the level ones that we have and any person thinking of becoming a future official, may well have been put off by seeing our workload on Sunday. If it hadn't been for the parents and coaches that were pressganged into helping we'd have struggled even more.

When the event was spread over two days, I can't remember being under so much stress. Yes, it meant going to two events but I'd much rather that than being so overworked to the point of exhaustion on one day.

Also, you could argue that we didn't help our own situation by giving each thrower 5 attempts not 4 as scheduled but I've always been led to believe that an athlete should have 6 attempts at a county champs. Some of our throwers proved that theory by throwing their best at the 5th attempt who knows if they'd have improved again with a 6th!

I know that field refereeing isn't an easy job at the best of times but Sunday's event must have been particularly stressful, therefore I thank you for the support you gave you gave.

- Arthur would like Gloucester AC, Cheltenham Harriers and Stroud AC to discuss next year's Track and Field Championships.

8. **It was decided not to discuss item 8 of the Agenda at the meeting.**

9. **Any Other Business**

- There was no any other business

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Friday 5th September 2025 at 20:00.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 21:00