



# Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club

Quality Facilities and Expert Athletic Coaching

July 2024

## The YOAC Yammer

Edition 4

### Key Club Contacts

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

### Team Managers:

- **National League:** Jacquie Silcox / Paul Guest
- **U20 and Senior Men:** Geoff Cole
- **U17 Men:** Kelly Sandford
- **U17, U20 and Senior Women:** Chris Huntley
- **U15 Boys:** Claire Slight
- **U15 Girls:** Amy Joynes
- **All U13s:** Larry Tullett

Contact details on website and in membership email

### Upcoming Key Dates

YOAC Evening Open 3 **July 25th**

NAL Cup Bedford **Aug 3rd**

YOAC Evening Open 4 **Aug 29th**

SWAL Exeter **Sept 1st**

Yeovil Games **Sept 7th**

[www.yeovilolympiads.com](http://www.yeovilolympiads.com)

### YOAC's Olympic Overhaul

After 4 months of planning, meetings and filming the much awaited 'Olympic Overhaul' film was released on July 17th. Club Chairman Geoff Cole was first contacted by WING Productions in response to the enormous wave of support to save the recreation ground facilities when possible closure was announced earlier this year. The film covers the British Gas re-vamp that all members will have noticed, to the Joanna France Memorial Clubhouse



The transformation is part of British Gas, main sponsor to Team GB and Paralympic GB, broader effort of 'Powering The Home Fans', a purpose-driven initiative launched in the run-up to the Paris Olympics.

Through their long-term partnership with Team GB and Paralympic GB,

### Diamond League Officials

There are many factors that ensure the ongoing success of our club—not least the athletes of course, but not only can events not run without officials to ensure the correct and safe application of our sport, but the club is reliant on officials to ensure they score in both leagues that YOAC participates in and to enable our events to be classified at a level which enables athlete's results to be registered as 'official'.

YOAC is blessed with not only a good number of volunteers currently qualified as officials but also with a strong reputation for the standard of officiating at events—one of the many reasons the club is able to



attract high calibre athletes to its events—some of you may have spotted Yeovil in the recent 'Daley Thompson—Olympic Champion' documentary. The commitment to officiate can be as much or as little as each individual is able to manage but without the cohort continually growing, our sport will be at risk

The extensive enhancements to the club's facilities include the installation of new solar panels, improved insulation, new doors and windows, external cladding, and a comprehensive makeover of the clubhouse, bathrooms, and changing rooms, making it a more modern, sustainable, and future-proof facility projected to save up to 10 tonnes of carbon annually and significantly reducing maintenance and running costs.



Members were treated to a celebration to mark the occasion with a host of special guests. 2012 Olympic Gold medallist Greg Rutherford spent hours talking to members and was joined by film host Mark Wright, Olympian James Guy and Paralympian Aled Davies as well as local former Team GB athlete Jo Pavey.



The revamp coincides with superb news that from August 1st the Mudford Rec facilities transfer to Yeovil Town Council ownership and a more secure future.



with many of our officials now exceeding 20 years of volunteering.

The officiating journey is filled with fulfilment, fun and excitement. This month some of our officials were at the Diamond League fixture in London. In the past they have officiated at Olympic Games, European Championships and Commonwealth Games and a whole host of national events. There is no age limit to start your journey and to not only have the opportunity to experience athletics from the 'inside' but also give back to your club.

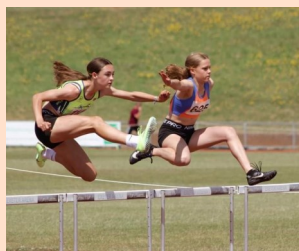
Contact Paul D'Arcy for further information. [darceathletics@gmail.com](mailto:darceathletics@gmail.com)

## SWAL League 2

	YOAC Match 3	Place Match 3	Current league position
U13 Girls	72	9th ▼	8th ▼
U13 Boys	81	8th ▼	9th ▼
U15 Girls	179	4th ▼	2nd ➔
U15 Boys	206	1st ▲	5th ▲
U17 Men	0	12th ▼	10th ➔
Women (inc U17)	396	3rd ▲	3rd ▲
U20M/ Men	326	4th ▲	5th ➔
Relays	46	6th ▲	4th ▼
Officials	80	1st ➔	n/a
Total	1386	4th ▲	6th ➔

## National League

	YOAC Match 2	YOAC Match 3	Current league position
Women	6th	3rd	
Men	2nd	2nd	
Overall	5th	2nd	5th



## League Success for YOAC

The Senior men's and women's teams travelled to Yate at the end of June for their second National League fixture of the summer and then were finally at home in Yeovil for their third fixture. Star of the day in Yate was Matt Alvarez who ran two PBs including a won and club record in the 200m with an outstanding time of 21.25. A second club record was achieved in Yate by the 4 x 100m relay team consisting of Matt Alvarez, Alex Armstrong, Lewis Guest and Harry Barton.

The Yeovil fixture saw some superb results with the team achieving an incredible 3rd place for the fixture helped with a full team of athletes and officials. The team saw wins from Robbie Lopez Smith in the pole vault with a new PB, Lottie Garret in the triple jump with a huge leap well beyond 11m, replicated in the men's event by Lewis



Guest achieving a jump beyond 14m, Georgia Silcox in the 110m hurdles and Matt Lusby in the steeplechase. There was a 1st and 2nd place in the men's javelin with Ben Jones and

Jacob Dibble and a double win for Ellen Barber 100m and shot putt. In what is an extremely difficult league of the highest standard that YOAC competes, the team lies in a very respectable 5th place.

The full YOAC team also travelled to Exeter on the last weekend in June for the third South West League fixture of the year. There were some exceptional performance, particularly in the U15 boys where the team ensured they had competitors in every event – resulting in a match win for them and huge contribution to the team total. The senior women (including U17) came a superb 3rd out of the twelve teams and both the U15 girls and men (including U17) came 4th. Stand out mention must go to



Olympiad Dan Brown participating in every field event for the men's team, earning a huge haul of points for the men and the overall team total. There were great points performances across all age

groups with wins for Milo Priestley (U13) in high jump, Oskar Beck (U15) in the 1500m, Esme Burdge (U15) in javelin, Isaac Slight (U15) in the 1500m steeplechase, Emily Bonnet (Seniors) in the 400m and Alex Armstrong (seniors) in the 100m.

The team has one final fixture of the league in September which is an absolutely crucial one where the club will be hoping to field a full team across the age groups and move up the table into a top 3 spot to finish the season.

## Open Event Opportunities

With the vast majority of league events held away from Yeovil, the Open Events hosted by the club are a great opportunity for all athletes to experience competition, have a go at new events or record a new personal best.

This season the club has hosted its usual two day Spring Open and will be again be hosting September's Yeovil Games but has also run the series of Evening Open events that proved so successful last year. As well as the competition opportunity the open events are a crucial fund raiser for the club ensuring we can continue to provide for athletes across our area and also establish funds to replace worn or outdated equipment.

Competitors do not have to be a member of the club to compete, or of any club, making it also a great opportunity to bring friends along to 'have a go' and potentially increase our membership. The evening events take place on the last Thursday of every month and are for any athlete aged U11 through to seniors June's event saw some superb performances including a season's best for

YOACs Jacob Dibble in the javelin with a throw in excess of 61m, Isaac Slight achieving a PB of 3m in the pole Vault and Tilly May achieving a win and PB in the U13 long jump.



Registration is now open for the next open event taking place on the 25th July and events are filling up fast, with some already having waiting lists. Go to the Yeovil Olympiads face book page or rosterathletics.com to enter.

## Meet The Athlete

Lily Jones

Age 15

Time at Club: 3 years

Events: Long Jump and 100m

### Best Moment In Athletics so far?

Jumping a PB in the Somerset Championships this year which broke the Somerset record.

### Who do you get your inspiration from

I look up to all athletes who compete internationally because as an athlete I can understand how much work they have put into it! But in particular Jazmin Sawyers and Dina Asher-Smith as their work ethic is inspiring.

### Hopes and Dreams

I'd love to keep progressing in athletics and hopefully be selected to compete for the Under 20 European Champs in the next few years. I know this will take a lot of work but I'm willing to do what needs to be done.

### Top Tip

Make sure you love what you are doing! It makes all the hard training sessions a lot more bearable if you enjoy what you do.

