WIMBORNE ATHLETICS CLUB

AUTUMN 2026

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE CLUB

A season packed with relay medals, championship performances, league action, road racing and plenty of reasons to celebrate across WAC.

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JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

NATIONAL RELAYS – AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

Reported by Paula Hine

We were proud to represent Wimborne AC and Team Dorset at the National Relays at Alexander Stadium. It was especially exciting to race there following the European Athletics Championships and the fantastic performances from the GB relay teams.

The brilliant facilities included a separate warm up track, helping us settle our nerves and prepare properly.

Ava raced in the Under-16 Girls' 4 × 100m relay alongside Isla, Rosie and Sofia. Unfortunately, the final changeover didn't go to plan, but the team still finished fourth without disqualification and gained valuable experience.

Tom competed in the Under-16 Boys' 4 × 300m relay for Team Dorset with Elliott, Harrison and Harley. The boys entered the competition ranked eighth with a personal best of 2:35.55, before running an incredible new PB of 2:29.92 to secure the silver medal!

We would like to thank our WAC team manager and coach, Paula Hine, and the Team Dorset manager, Emma, for all their support on the day. We are also very grateful to everyone who gave up their Sunday to attend and cheer us on.

It was a long, tiring but brilliant day, rounded off with dinner together at an amazing farm shop on the journey home. Hopefully, we can form more teams next year and go again!

Ava and Tom, aged 15





Ava, Isla, Rosie and Sofia at the National Relays.

WIMBORNE TOP HURDLER – LANI MOORE

Reported by Paula Hine

We are very proud to announce that Lani Moore (u14 girl) is currently topping the UK rankings for the 75m hurdles. On 2nd August Lani had the rare opportunity to compete in a race against the two athletes ranked 2nd and 3rd, only a few tenths of a second behind her. The race took place in Walton, London, as part of the Don Turner u14 inter counties. With all the pressure on Lani to perform she was understandably very nervous. After some very solid hurdling and a final sprint through the finish line Lani was a comfortable winner and her number one ranking was secured. Congratulations Lani!!



Lani competing in the 75m hurdles.

UK No. 1 • 75m HURDLES

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

DORSET COMPETITIONS FOR U10'S AND U12'S

Reported by Paula Hine

Early in the year it was clear that due to the change in age groups this season the
under 10's and under 12's would have very few competitive opportunities available to them. With financial support from England Athletics the county of Dorset promoted a range of competitions for these young age groups.
During the season competition ranged from informal evening club events which were led by the junior committee, through to county open competitions and finally an intercounties match against Somerset.
The Dorset competitions saw around 40 x u10's and 70 x u12's regularly competing.
The culmination of the season was the inter counties match at Yeovil in early
September. Dorset County was victorious in all for events!
Wimborne athletes were very much part of this initiative, with many going on to be
selected to represent their county.
Well done Dorset!! Well done Wimborne!!
The photo is of Jonah Gollings from WAC who was the under 10 boys champion at Yeovil!



Jonah Gollings – U10 boys champion at Yeovil.

DORSET SUCCESS

The Dorset competitions saw around 40 U10s and 70 U12s regularly competing, with many Wimborne athletes selected to represent their county.

COMING UP

WIMBORNE 10 ROAD RACE - 15TH NOVEMBER 2026

Reported by Steve Wyatt

It's that time of year again - The Wimborne 10 takes place on Sunday 15th November 2026. Once again, we rely on you the club members to assist to make the event a success. If you'd like to get in early and secure your favourite volunteering location, then now is the time. Have a look at the sheet, decide where you want to be and let me know. Definitely room for everyone!

If you are more relaxed and happy to 'get what you are given' or prefer being hounded night and day until you give in, then please delay until closer to the event!

Thanks Steve!

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W10 - Teams - Google Sheets

There are three teams so click on the tabs at the bottom to view them all.



RELAY REPORT

WESSEX RIDGEWAY RELAY 2026

Reported by Steve Wyatt

This is a long-standing event organised annually by Dorset Doddlers and involves a100km relay race across the stunning hills of Dorset from Tollard Royal to Uplyme on the fringes of
Lyme Regis. The race is divided into 12 legs and typically each team has 6 people doing two legs each.
Allegedly the Wessex Ridgeway is part of an old drover's trail used to move animals up to London. Quite why they picked such a hilly route is a mystery but anyway there we were at 0730 on Sunday 24th May with our lead runner Louie Verdi ready to set off. What is unusual about the race is that each runner must have done a recce of their particular leg, there is no race signage whatsoever and this makes it tricky to organise a complete team who all know where they are going!
Completing it is a combination of speed and navigation – WAC have had a couple of second
places in recent years but this year our team really excelled to come in first place, arriving at the finish 30 minutes before the 2nd placed team from Dorset Doddlers.

Runners: Louie Verdi, Joe Cherrett, Mark Burden, Damian Huntingford, Simon Lilley, Steve Wyatt
Team Drivers: Kerry Mapp & Deborah Wyatt







The WAC relay team.

1st PLACE • 100KM RELAY

THE TEAM

Runners: Louie Verdi, Joe Cherrett, Mark Burden, Damian Huntingford, Simon Lilley, Steve Wyatt
Team Drivers: Kerry Mapp & Deborah Wyatt

www.wessexridgewayrelay.co.uk

ROAD RUNNERS

WIMBORNE AC ROAD RUNNERS – SUMMER ROUND-UP

Report by Captains Mark Savage and Susie Palmer

It's been another busy and enjoyable summer for the Wimborne AC Road Runners, with plenty of racing, competition and, of course, opportunities to get together and enjoy our running.

The Road Runners have been well represented at a number of local events over the summer, including the Purbeck 10K, Blackmore Vale Half Marathon and Stur Half Marathon. The next club outing will be the Round the Lakes 10K on 27 September, where we'll be looking forward to another strong turnout from the club.

Our men's and ladies' teams continue to compete in Division 1, with eight races completed and four still to go. Injuries have played a factor this year, but we are still giving it our best shot. The men currently sit in 4th place, while the ladies are 5th, leaving both teams with plenty to race for as we head into the final part of the season.

With four races remaining, the focus will be on maintaining our division 1 status and finishing the season strongly. Every runner counts, so if you're able to represent WAC in the remaining league races, get involved and help the teams push on!

There was a particularly impressive team performance back in May, when a Wimborne AC men's team took victory in the Wessex Ridgeway. A great result and another example of the strength we have across the club.

July saw the return of our Club Mile at Shapwick, which proved to be a great success, with more than 20 WAC runners taking part and battling it out over the mile.

It was a brilliant evening of racing and club spirit, and it would be fantastic to build on this in the future. The Club Mile has the potential to become an event that reaches across the whole of Wimborne AC, encouraging runners from different sections of the club to come along, have a go and enjoy a bit of friendly competition.

Our Parkrun Club Championship has also proved a big hit over the summer. Using WAVA scoring has helped to level the playing field, giving runners of all ages and abilities a genuine chance to compete.

Members have been getting involved at a variety of locations, including Moors Valley, Durlston and Upton, adding a bit of extra competition to the Saturday morning Parkrun routine!

Summer has also seen some impressive marathon adventures further afield. Michele and Phil Whitehurst took on the Cape Town Marathon, while Michele and Phil were joined by Andy Olden for the Sydney Marathon.

Two fantastic destinations and some serious mileage — although hopefully there was a little time to enjoy the surroundings as well!

Although slightly outside the usual Road Runner remit, it would be impossible not to mention Mike and Sandra Jurd, who recently represented themselves — and perhaps unofficially WAC — at the Nordic Walking Championships in Finland.

Mike returned with a fantastic silver medal, while Sandra finished an excellent 4th. A brilliant achievement for both of them and another reminder that WAC members seem to be willing to take on just about any sporting challenge!

With the summer coming to an end, the focus now turns firmly towards the final four Division 1 league races. Both the men's and ladies' teams are looking to maintain their places in Division 1, so there is plenty still to play for.

Away from the racing, we'll continue to enjoy the social side of the club and hopefully see even more members getting involved in events such as the Club Mile, Parkrun Championship and very popular Tuesday group that is going from strength to strength.

Thanks to everyone who has represented Wimborne AC over the summer — whether racing, supporting, organising or simply turning up for a run. Here's to a strong finish to the season!

TRACK & FIELD

WESSEX LEAGUE AT WINCHESTER

Report by Peter Impett

It's the time of year when competitions come thick and fast for Wimborne AC athletes. The under 12s continue to scrap it out with the bigger clubs in the Wessex Young Athletes League Quadkids competition. At Winchester the girls tied with the very powerful home club in the Girls event and were second in the Boys for an overall second place. Jasmin Foster was 3rd, Savannah Hastings 6th, Adriana Travers 10th and Iola Poretta 16th scoring for the girls and Toby Smith 2nd, Ezra Hayden 8th, Jack Rourke 14th and Dylan Penny 24th scoring for the boys.

In the main match the under 16 boys were the big scorers with Harley Stanley winning the 100 in 11.42 and the 200 23.35. He was backed up by a B string win by Elliott Trickey 11.86 in the 100 and by Thomas Froud 24.50 in the 200. Elliott then posted a 5m90 long jump supported by Lucas Jolliffe on 5m38 for a B string win. Harry Read was a major points contributor winning the hurdles in 14.77, the B 300 in 39.79 and taking second place in the high jump with 1m60.

At under 18 level James Froud won the 100 in 11.61 and the long jump with 5m90. For the under 14s Osian Poretta won the high jump with a personal best 1m56, Thomas Faulkner was second in the 800 in 2.24.38. Zac Johnson continued his reliable points contribution with a second placed discus 23m59 and a winning Shot 7m84.

The girls were quieter than usual though Maisie Robbins recorded a personal best winning 1m46 in the high jump and won the shot with 8m50. Eva Rourke was second in the hurdles 12. 92 where Tilly Pretty won the B string 14.08 which she followed with a second placed 23m79 in the discus. Lila Rogers built up to qualification for the English Schools Championships with a 4m92 win in the long jump. At under 16 level Ava Elliott- Smith 12.63 in the 100 and Mila Desborough 45m51 in the javelin also won in their build up towards the English Schools event.

Match Scores 1) Basingstoke 489, 2) Winchester 361, 3) Wimborne 311, 4) Isle of Wight 163, 5) Marlborough 134, 6) Poole AC 87

Wessex Young Athletes Track & Field League.

MATCH SCORES

1) Basingstoke 489 • 2) Winchester 361 • 3) Wimborne 311 • 4) Isle of Wight 163 • 5) Marlborough 134 • 6) Poole AC 87

CHAMPIONSHIPS

FAMOUS FIVE

Report by Peter Impett

Five of Wimborne AC's athletes contested the English Schools Championships in Birmingham at the weekend. Star performer was Mila Desborough who not only retained her title in the Junior Girls Javelin but smashed the Championship Best Performance that she set last year. Mila increased the record from 43m77 to 46m36 and has regularly been getting close to the elusive 50 metre throw.

Rosie Gollings was a silver medallist in the 300 metres in the Junior Girls category. Rosie ran 39.97 to win her heat and 40.08 in the final. Changes to the age group rules put the other three athletes at a considerable disadvantage but Elliott Trickey who was a late replacement for an unwell athlete was seventh in the Intermediate Boys triple jump with 12m62 just short of his personal best. A first time at the Championships saw Lila Richards jump 5m02 for fourteenth place in the Junior Long Jump and Ava Elliot-Smith was pleased with her 100 metre 12.62 seconds against some older competitors, a time which if she had been in other heats might have allowed her to progress in the competition



Mila Desborough on the podium.

CHAMPIONSHIP BEST PERFORMANCE

Mila Desborough increased the Junior Girls Javelin Championship Best Performance from 43m77 to 46m36.

TRACK & FIELD

TRACK AND FIELD ROUND-UP

Report by Peter Impett

The top competition, the UK Age Groups Championships, was held at Bedford on the weekend of 25th and 26th July. Mila Desborough was again in fine form breaking the javelin record for her age group with a winning throw of 47m40. Elliott Trickey was sixth in the under 16 triple jump with 12m86.

Mila also retained her title in the South West Inter Counties Championships at Exeter the previous weekend with 41m17. Elliott won the triple jump with 12m43. Maisie Robbins has had an exceptional competitive year sometimes winning all three of her league events. At Exeter she won the high jump with 1m40 and the shot with a personal best 9m36. Tilly Pretty won the under 14 girls discus with a personal best 25m56 and Lila Richards did what she does best winning the under 14 girls long jump with 4m97.

There were also bronze medals for Zac Johnson in the under 14 boys hammer 29m96 and for Olivia Eves with 4.56.88 in the under 16 1500 metres.



WAC success on the podium.

LOOKING AHEAD

SEASON SUMMARY

Reported by Glyn Davies

The 2026 Track and Field season

WAC finished 9/20 in the Wessex league and 7/13in the South West league. We also competed as part of Team Dorset in the Youth Development league (lower age group) finished top and the Southern Athletic league. To sustain our presence in all these leagues, we need more parents to step forward and become officials.

WINTER COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Cross country – all ages in both the Wessex and Hampshire leagues.

Sportshall Athletics – indoors at Canford school aimed at junior athletes.

SPOND & WHAT'S NEXT

On the track and field side, as many of you are already aware, in our attempt to streamline the booking system and move away from cash handling, we have started to implement the SPOND system to selected training groups. It has been well received and our aim for the new year is to cut down admin further by introducing a monthly subscription offer.

THANK YOU, WAC!

Here's to a strong finish to the season.