

VAC Annual General Meeting

Thursday 02 October 2025

Track & Field Secretary's Report 2024-25

This year has been marked by the fact that we were unable to find a date/venue to hold the outdoor club championships due to problems with stadiums selected and finding enough officials, but it did not help that I have been unable to devote as much time to VAC's events as was needed due to an overwhelming demand for my time and energy from British Masters.

After the successful joint VAC-EMAC indoor championships in 2025, we hope we can do even better if we hold our own championships in 2026. We now have the date of 08 February from Lee Valley and so we now have to arrange the officials in order to confirm the event.

The other events in the year went very well however:

- On 16th February, VAC's team of 45 competed in the EMEA indoor inter-area challenge at Lee Valley. VAC's combined result gave them 4th place overall (43 points behind SCVAC). Clare Elms set a new indoor world record for the W60 1500m in a time 5:03.1
- On 25th June, we held the 5000m championships at Tooting Bec track – four races of 56 competitors in total in extremely hot weather. There were two new championships best performances: Nikki Sturzaker in the W50 category with a time of 18:40.34, Anna Garnier in the W70 category with a time of 23:26.56, Pauline Rich in inaugural CBP in the W80 category with a time 32:25.23.
- On 17th August, VAC's team of 33 competed in the EMEA inter-area challenge at University of York. VAC's combined result was 4th overall (just 16 points short of EMAC) but the women's team achieved 3rd place (holding off SCVAC by 4 points.)
- Finally on 10th September we held the 10000m championships at Battersea Park stadium – three races of 48 competitors in total. There were two new championships best performances: Maggie Statham-Berry in the W70 category with a time of 49:39.2 and Clare Elms in the W60 category with a time of 38:46.9, which if ratified would be a UK and possibly World record.

All these events have depended on the work done on the day by other committee members and I am very grateful to them for their support.

My health has taken a major hit this summer, most likely due to the stress of the BMAF leadership work and so much demand on my time from British Masters and Sussex Athletics. I am therefore giving notice of my retirement from all my management roles over the next 12 months, starting with the role of VAC track & field secretary. If there is someone else who would consider taking it on, then I will stay on to guide them in what is needed for the indoor championships and introduce them to the rest of the team who will make it happen. I am willing to continue on the committee for now, as long as I do not have to take the lead in organising VAC events.

Peter Kennedy
02 October 2025.