

Almost Athletes Monthly Bulletin – January 2026

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Thank You for Supporting Your Club by Volunteering

With the eagerly awaited Linda Franks race, the new year spotlight of appreciation has fallen very much on volunteer support for the Club. You have been amazing! Thank you one and all.

We enjoyed a racing start to January with two main events: the Linda Franks 5 and the Boddington 10 mile. It has been great to see so many members either volunteering, just “out for a run” or “racing in earnest”. The organisation at Linda Franks was as smooth as ever and our thanks go to all involved. Our next Club race is not until July, so we have plenty of time to prepare. As mentioned before Christmas - and to spread the load - we plan to set up a core team (a bit like the parkrun approach). In that way we can ensure that we are not relying on just one or two people for such an important area of club activity.

Our weekly member offering of club sessions got underway on 5th January, with Ivana taking the lead on our Monday night track session. Michael took the helm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and, despite a lot of very wet weather, it's been a lot of fun. Give it a try – all abilities are welcome! We even had a track visit from Richard Ayling, our England Athletics Club Support Manager. He thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone and was most complimentary of our endeavours.

6 Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 23rd February - Members open meeting – Patesians, Everest Road from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Please do come along to share your ideas and discuss future Club events and development. More details to follow.

Saturday 13th June – Summer social – PatsFest 2026, Everest Road. Drinks, food, music. Maybe even some running – beer race anyone?

Saturday 4th July - Cotswold Way Relay – if you are interested please let David Chittock know by 18th February (as posted on the facebook group). Information also available on the AA website.

Wednesday 29th July – the Bugatti 10km, Prescott Hill Climb, our second club race of the year.

Friday 28th August – the Meteor Mile, Gloucestershire airport, our third and final club race of the year.

Sunday 13th December – Possible seaside trip! Coach to Weston super Mare for the Christmas Cracker 10k.

All these events require organisation, participation and enthusiasm – do get in touch if you would like to get involved in any way.

February Incoming

For our Wednesday Club nights we moved to Hillview Community Centre, Hatherley from **Wednesday 28th January**. Drinks and social catch up afterwards in The Greatfield pub. We will stay with this venue through February and probably move to Cleeve Hill sometime in March. Important note – it didn't rain!

Our Mental Health Champions report that **Thursday 5th February** is national Time to Talk Day, sponsored by MIND. The day encourages us all to have conversations to support mental wellbeing. Coincidentally, we have three club runs that day and will do our bit to spark that conversation. By way of additional club support, the Committee has agreed to make a donation of £100 to our nearest local branch, which covers Gloucestershire & Swindon.

Congratulations to Patricia Dendy, Sarah Wood and Allan Green, who won awards in the 2025 Gloucestershire AAA road race series. Their awards presentation evening was postponed to **Friday 6th February at The Civic Centre, Gloucester**. We look forward to seeing photos of the evening. Details of the 2026 race series can be found at athletics4u.co.uk. You automatically qualify for points when taking part in the nominated races.

Saturday February 14th sees the final Cross Country (XC) match of the 2025-26 season. This takes place at Pittville Park and is also the opening race of our off-road race series. Details of how to enter (for a bargain price!) can be found by following the link at athletics4u.co.uk. As with Club training nights, all members are welcome and you will even get a team badge if you are new to XC. There is an end of season meal at Fioro Lounge on **Sunday 22nd February at 7:00pm**. Please ask Clemens Orth for more details about the meal.

Monday 23rd February Members open meeting – as mentioned above. An “open mic” type evening to discuss all things “Almost”. Your Committee needs you! This is your club and we really want to gather your thoughts, especially if you have any new ideas that you would like to raise. Come along and be part of the evening if you can.

Looking Forward to “More” in 2026

We would love to see even more members at club training sessions, social events and races in 2026. The website and weekly Facebook post give details of where we are meeting, so check them out. Club sessions run from Monday to Thursday and are delivered by volunteer coaches and run leaders. The only additional cost is to book a track session (£3.25) - this helps offset the cost to the club to hire the track.

We do look forward to seeing you, regardless of your run ability. If you are newer to more structured training then Monday night track would be a good introduction for you. And of course the Wednesday evening club nights offer a wide range of paced groups, along with the chance to socialise with other runners.

Also, if you are interested in the role of volunteer run leader (LIRF), then have a chat with a leader or Committee member to gain an insight into what is involved. The best time is at a Wednesday evening club night.

We look forward to hearing from you &, once again, thank you for your support and participation.

Let's go for a run!

Your Committee
Almost Athletes