

AA Member Monthly Bulletin June/ early July 2026

- Race entries still available for the Bugatti 10k on Wednesday 29th July
- Race entries – a very important reminder
- Cotswold Way Relay success
- Linktree – click on the link below!!!
- Club run sessions
- Key events and dates
- Amazing members

Race entries are still available for the Bugatti 10km on Wednesday 29th July. See www.entrycentral.com for details.

The Meteor Mile is at Gloucestershire Airport on Friday 28th August. Volunteers are always needed for both events, so please get in touch if you can help. Whilst we have a waiting list for the mile there are plenty of entries available for the Bugatti. It's a fun evening - give it a go.

Race entries - a very important reminder

Please only ever run using the race number issued to you. Running with someone else's race number is against event rules and can have serious safety implications in the event of an emergency. On top of that, a runner could even find themselves disqualified or banned. If you can no longer take part, please follow the organiser's official transfer or withdrawal process. Thank you for helping to keep events safe and fair for all.

Cotswold Way Relay success

Congratulations to the Cotswold Way Relay teams and volunteers. We hope you had a great day. Certainly some happy faces on the AA Facebook page. Vicky Kennedy picked up her Queen of the Cotswolds, and Peter Mitchener, King of the Cotswolds,

for completing all ten legs – well done to them. Unbelievably, we had 26 volunteers to marshal the leg 4 detour! Of course, a big hand to David Chittock for his sterling efforts again this year.

Announcing Linktree – your new communication tool from AA –)link at foot of the page)

Club communications are key and the Committee works hard to try and ensure you get the information you need. As well as that, it's important that we promote the club to the best of our ability. We continue to look at ways to improve. You may have seen our new "Linktree" on the Members Only Facebook page. Have a look – it's designed to help you quickly navigate the club website, discover what's on and stay connected with everything happening across Almost Athletes.

Club run sessions – everyone welcome

Due to the extreme heat, members and friends enjoyed an unusual club night on Wednesday 24th June, when a group of around 20 sat in the garden at The Frogmill, Andoversford for a social catch up. Somewhat stretching our mantra of "so much more than just a running club". Nonetheless, a lovely evening where talk turned to walking groups (now Carl has broken his arm – speedy recovery Carl) and the cold at Christmas!

With the heat easing – if not this week! - club run sessions are now back in full swing. We have something for everyone, whether you are a parkrun front runner or a tail walker. Check the website, get in touch, talk to the leaders and coaches and come along.

Three of our run leaders are currently training up for their CIRF (Coach in Running Fitness) qualification: Ivana Wilson, Michelle Balchin and Graeme Stopp. All should be fully qualified by the end of the summer. An ease in work commitments saw a welcome return to track coaching with James Clay last week. Thanks to James for standing in with holiday cover for the club. Some of you may know that James is also an England Athletics Tutor, so we are in good hands with his knowledge and expertise.

Claire Hawes has asked that we relay some notes on a forthcoming Thursday morning run. This is on 16th July, when the Thursday morning coffee run group is having an away day to Bourton with Lynn Hudson. Everyone is welcome whether or not you normally attend Thursday sessions. The plan is for a five mile trail run. Meet at Patesians Club, Everest Road to arrange car shares, leaving Patesians at 9.30am. Bring trail shoes if you have them, a drink and possibly your own biscuits/refreshments as “Costa Del Bourton” will be very busy. More details to follow on this or just get in touch with Claire if you would like more information.

Key Events and Dates

13th June – Pats Fest summer social was a brilliant success – such a fun day. Thanks to all those who helped set up or just came along. A great way to showcase Almost Athletes in the community.

13th July – the fourth and final handicap race of the 2026 series at Patesians Club. Good luck to those taking part in this finale. If you fancy a run, just get in contact with Peter Mitchener (peter_mitchener@yahoo.co.uk) for more details.

22nd August – Almost Athletes takeover at King George V Playing Field parkrun. If you can spare some volunteer time on this date it would be great to see you. Cake anyone? More details to follow nearer the time.

5th December – Christmas Party night – new central venue of the United Services Club, North Place, Cheltenham GL50 4DW.

13th December – Club trip to Weston Super Mare & the Weston Christmas Cracker 10km – booking details and initial deposit/commitment requests to follow soon. We estimate around £15 - £17.50 total cost, per head for coach transport, plus your race entry, should you decide to run.

Amazing Members

Olivia Wiles completed the 100 miles Castle to Castle - Bamburgh to Edinburgh;

Patricia Dendy represented England Masters in the Bideford 10k and Swansea half marathon, placing third in category in both races;

Lou Tring won a bottle of red wine for coming last at the Descent 10k in West Yorkshire;

Allan Green ran a marathon (or two);

Sue Surgeon completed her 350th parkrun and Leah Maddiss, her 150th;

Endure 24 – completed by Hollie Galvin (solo) and by Ceinwen Davies, Zakia Hussain, Kev Fairs, Jackie Slaughter and Claire Gallagher (team);

And, of course, there are many more.

Let's go for a run!

Your Committee, Almost Athletes
10th July 2026

Want to know more?

Linktree – https://linktr.ee/Almost_Athletes_Cheltenham

More details about all of our regular training sessions and social runs can be found on the [“where we meet” section of our club website](#) and on our Facebook page.

Club Merchandise – see [“merchandise” section of the club website](#)