

CLUB NEWSLETTER · OCTOBER 2026

A ballot that shuts tonight, and a season that starts a week on Sunday

The Brass Monkey ballot closes at 21:59 this evening and West Yorkshire XC entries close on Sunday. Also featured, how four members took on the Great North Run, a trophy for the man who gave up his own race, two county vests in Hull, and welcome to the forty students who have joined us this term.

BALLOT CLOSING 21:59 TONIGHT

Brass Monkey Half Marathon, Sunday 17 January 2027

The ballot for the 2027 Brass Monkey is open now and closes at **21:59 this evening, Friday 2 October**. If you want a place, you need to be in the ballot before tonight.

Ten of us ran it last January, when Harry Bromley led the club home in 1:13:32 for a club half marathon record.

[Enter the ballot →](#)

IF YOU MISS OUT

There is a second chance

As we did last year, the club will have a few places of its own. We do not know yet how many we will be allocated. If you get a rejection slip, send it to steve@valeofyork.org and your name goes into a club draw.

TERMS

You must have entered the main ballot and be able to show a rejection slip. You must have been a fully paid up first claim member of Vale of York on 1 October 2026, and you must run in club colours on race day.

Note the date. Sunday 17 January is also West Yorkshire Cross Country Meeting 4 at Nunroyd Park, so if you are running the league you will have to pick one.

ENTRIES CLOSE THIS SUNDAY

West Yorkshire Cross Country League, 2026 to 2027

The season starts a week on Sunday at Cliffe Castle, Keighley, and entries close on **Sunday 4 October**. There are no entries on the day. Entry is individual through SportSoft rather than something the club does for you. One fee of £25 covers all five meetings, and you need to run four of them to qualify for a league award.

Meeting 1	Sunday 11 October 2026	Cliffe Castle, Keighley
Meeting 2	Saturday 14 November 2026	Thornes Park, Wakefield
Meeting 3	Saturday 5 December 2026	Middleton Park, Leeds
Meeting 4	Sunday 17 January 2027	Nunroyd Park, Guiseley
Meeting 5	Sunday 14 February 2027	Oulton Sports Club, Rothwell

For team awards we need a full team out at **every** meeting, **four women and six men**. The men's team have finished second in this league twice before. The women have never yet had four on the start line at **every** race, which is what the team prize requires, so doing it this season would be a first for the club.

Most of our West Yorkshire team are students at the University of York, but other seniors are just as welcome. The teams need six

men and four women of any age 18+. If necessary, Ian will be on the start line at Cliffe Castle, aged 59!

Juniors, please speak to a coach first. This league is aimed at higher ability athletes and can be intimidating for a child new to racing. It starts at U12, there is no U10 group, and the fields are strong. For most children new to cross country, PECO below is the better place to start and we will happily point you there instead.

Enter through SportSoft

Meetings are a mix of Saturdays and Sundays, all in and around Leeds and Wakefield. We are looking at minibus hire for the senior teams. Dates were amended in August, so check the league page before each one.

ENTRIES ARE OPEN

PECO Cross Country League, 2026 to 2027

This is the cross country series for everyone, and the start list proves it. Year 2 children race it and so do masters in their late sixties, on the same morning at the same venue, in the same vest. Much more inclusive than the West Yorkshire league, and no pressure to perform. **Entries are open now.**

The dates below are **provisional, subject to landowner permission**, so please check with us before travelling.

Race 1	Sunday 8 November 2026	Temple Newsam
Race 2	Sunday 13 December 2026	Pontefract Park
Race 3	Sunday 3 January 2027	Middleton Park
Race 4	Sunday 31 January 2027	West Park and Beckett Park
Race 5	Sunday 21 February 2027	Roundhay Park
Relays	Sunday 7 March 2027	Middleton Park

Entries are open now, through RaceBest, linked from the [PECO league website](#). Only advance and season ticket entries count towards the team; enter on the day and you run as a guest, scoring nothing for the club.

[How to enter PECO →](#)

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Yorkshire Marathon and Ten Mile

Steve Middup, Ian Martin, Daniel Torr, Daniel Lloyd and Neil Ryan are all taking on the full marathon, with more of us in the ten mile. That list is almost certainly incomplete, so if you are racing and not on it, tell us and we will come and find you. It is on the doorstep, so if you are not racing it is an easy one to go and shout at, and the people out there will hear you.

Afterwards a few of us are heading to [Panda Mami](#) for the all you can eat buffet, which is the only sensible way to finish a marathon. Come along whether you have run or not, just let [Ian](#) know so we can book enough places.

FROM THE CLUB

What members have been up to since the last newsletter.

GREAT NORTH RUN · 13 SEPTEMBER

You got behind them, and they all got round

Last month this newsletter asked you to help Richard and Clare to the start line on Tyneside. Between them they raised well over £2,000, and here is how the day itself went.



1:46 · PERSONAL BEST

Richard Johnson

Comfortably inside his sub 1:50 target, and he beat Andy Burnham along the way. Richard puts it down to the club's hydration and heat strategy, small sips at every station and a summer spent training in the warm. He did not plan on the sunburn. He finished at 153% of his fundraising target for the MS Society.

[Read Richard's story →](#)



2:58 · FIRST HALF MARATHON

Clare Bromley

Shin splints had wrecked her last month of training. She got round anyway, with jelly babies, a crowd that would not let her stop, and Harry and Richard alongside her for the final 400m. She raised £1,000 for the ME Association, running for Isobel. Her son Harry ran 1:19:11 for a course best after a year broken up by a stress fracture, and raised over £1,000 for St Mary's in Selby.

[Read Clare's story →](#)



17:03 · 10TH IN HIS AGE GROUP

Reuben, in the junior race

The day before the half, Reuben took on the 4km junior race through Newcastle and Gateshead, his first event on that scale, and came home 10th in his age group and 40th overall. His own race report is on the post, in his words.

[Read Reuben's report →](#)



VALE OF YORK HALF · 13 SEPTEMBER

Silver for Steve and Ian, and a trophy for James

Steve Middup and Ian Martin marshalled the car park all morning, dashed to the start line and came home with YVAA silvers at M65 and M55. Steve Hillam broke 39 minutes for the first time in the 10K. And James Leadbeater, also marshalling from 7am, gave up his chance to run so he could tailwalk the course and see every last runner home. On Monday at Tadcaster he was handed a trophy of his own, inscribed "Tailwalker".

[Read the full story →](#)



INTER-COUNTIES · 12 AND 13 SEPTEMBER

County vests in Hull, then medals at Cleckheaton

Everly and Lily represented Humber at Kingston upon Hull against four larger counties, and Humber won the match. Everly won the long jump and anchored the 4x75m relay to victory and a county record. Lily took second in the shot, adding almost a metre to her best. The next day at Cleckheaton, for the West Yorkshire League Championships, Niamh pushed the club long jump record out to 4.77 for bronze, Heidi Bradley threw a club record 20.53m javelin, and there were more medals for Everly, Lily and Lisa Whitaker. Lily collected the trophy for third place U12 overall and JJ Grice finished the season as the second best senior man in the league. JJ still needs to collect his trophy from Beverley.

[Read the full story →](#)



WISTOW 10K • 27 SEPTEMBER

Two personal bests at Wistow, and third M55 at Knutsford

Steve Middup led the club home in 43:15, second M60 and an all time best, a fortnight after his silver at the Vale of York Half. Daniel Wigglesworth ran 49:11 and Colette Brear 53:52, with a personal best for Daniel too. The same morning, Ian Martin was over in Cheshire for the Barclays Knutsford 10K, third M55 in 38:32.

[Read the full story →](#)

All club news

LOOKING AHEAD

London Marathon 2027

The race moves to a weekend next year, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 April, with the Good For Age races split across the two days. Men run on the Saturday, women on the Sunday.

Good For Age. If you ran a GFA qualifying time at a qualifying marathon you can apply. Applications close at **16:00 on Thursday 29 October**, and you will need proof of your result and ID when you fill in the form.

The club ballot. For everyone else, the club is normally allocated one place. To go into the draw you need to have been a first claim member on **1 April 2026** and to have a rejection slip from the main ballot. Send rejection slips to ian@valeofyork.org. The ballot usually runs in November or December and we will say when it opens.

WELCOME

Forty students, and a partnership stronger than ever



Will Walker, this year's president of the University of York Athletics Club. Photo: Grand Day Out Photography.

Forty students from the University of York have joined the club this term, with many more to come, through our partnership with the University of York Athletics Club. They are coached by Ian Martin, Beverley Horsfield and Harry Bromley on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at the university track, and again on Saturday mornings.

On Saturdays our juniors train on the track alongside them. A ten year old warming up near a student squad picks up something no session plan can teach. Thank you to all students at the University of York. If you have just arrived in York and are reading this, welcome. The cross country season starts a week on Sunday.

THIS TERM'S SESSIONS

Most sessions have their own page. Tap for the full details.

Monday 4.00 to 6.00pm	Track and field STUDENTS ONLY University of York
Monday 5.30 to 6.15pm	Funetics, ages 5 to 7 FULL Tadcaster Grammar School
Monday 6.30 to 7.30pm	Age group athletics, U10 to U18 Tadcaster Grammar School
Tuesday 5.15 to 6.00pm	Funetics, ages 5 to 7 FULL All Saints Church, Sherburn in Elmet
Wednesday 4.00 to 6.00pm	Track and field STUDENTS ONLY University of York
Wednesday 7.00 to 8.00pm	Interval training Bubwith Leisure Centre
Thursday 5.00 to 5.45pm	Funetics, ages 5 to 7 Bubwith Leisure Centre
Thursday 6.00 to 7.00pm	Circuit training Bubwith Leisure Centre
Friday 6.15 to 7.00pm	Funetics, ages 5 to 7 FULL Hungate Primary, Sherburn in Elmet
Saturday 10.00 to 11.30am	Track, September to May University of York

The two university sessions are for University of York students, coached by Ian Martin, Beverley Horsfield and Harry Bromley. Our juniors train alongside them on Saturday mornings.

Sessions are led by England Athletics licensed coaches who are Enhanced DBS checked.

MEMBER BENEFIT

15% off at SportsShoes this month

X9AF65NC9PA

The October code gives 15% off AW26 products and runs until **1 November**.

Exclusions apply, including but not limited to Brooks, Coros, Garmin, Maurten and Shokz.

OVER TO YOU

Your newsletter needs you

Almost everything in this one came from members sending things in. A race report, a result, a photograph from the side of a track, a few lines from an athlete about how their day went. It does not need to be written well, that is our job. It just needs to reach us.

[Send us your news →](#)

Or email newsletter@valeofyork.org directly.

Vale of York Athletic Community

A charitable incorporated organisation running athletics for all ages across Selby, Tadcaster, Bubwith and York.

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You are receiving this because you are a member, parent or friend of the club.

Know someone who might enjoy this? Forward it on to a friend or family member who may be interested.