



HALESOWEN ATHLETICS CLUB

NEWSROUND AUGUST 2026

The holidays saw no end to the HACC action as the various summer competitions came to a close.

The final meetings of the Midland Senior Track and Field League and Midland Vets League took place and there was an astronomical end to the Worcestershire Midweek Series!

There's news of the Unity 5k as our athletes sampled the tough European Marathon course; track, road and parkrun updates and details of all the upcoming competitive and social events at the club.

GOODBYE TO OLIVER'S ARMY!

Halesowen's athletes enjoyed their final two meetings in the Midland League top flight at Yate and Birmingham University.



At Yate, Halesowen finished in fifth place with Ollie Dodd winning the 110m Hurdles.

Results from Birmingham University are yet to be fully confirmed but there were event wins for Toby Magee in the men's 200m, Phoebe Dodd in the women's 400m and for the mixed 4x400m relay team of James Sherwood, Asha Morgan, Phoebe Dodd and Peter Dear.

The meeting also marked the end of Ollie Dodd's (left) incredible captaincy of the Halesowen Midland Senior League track and field team.



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The two Halesowen mixed 4x400m relay teams at Birmingham University
PHOTO: Toby Gosnall / Imagineering

Ollie led the team to two successive promotions and a respectable showing in Division One.

He threw himself into every event, often competing in up to five events at each meeting and scored valuable points for the club in numerous disciplines, including the 110m AND 400m Hurdles and the High Jump.

As well as his own epic performances, he brought the best out of his clubmates and helped foster a fantastic team spirit.

Everyone at Halesowen would like to thank Ollie for his hard work over the years and wish him the best for his post-captaincy life at the club!



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WORCESTERSHIRE MIDWEEK SERIES

In the 40+ year history of the Worcestershire Midweek Series, the Clent 8k has rarely been eclipsed as the traditional tough end to the series that we all know and love.

Although this year, it nearly was!



The celestial machinations of the Sun and the Moon led to a 90% partial eclipse and seemingly half of the West Midlands climbing up Clent to observe!

Nearby roads were packed with cars which led to a delayed start although the eclipse watchers did result in an unusually large amount of spectator support.

The views of the eclipse were somewhat obscured by the inevitable cloudy skies but the winner of the Clent 8k was perfectly clear!

*PHOTO: Richard Wilkinson
National Trust Clent Hills*

Andy Yapp took first place for Halesowen in 33:32.

David Gemmell from Bromsgrove & Redditch was ten seconds behind in second and it was good to see Jonathan Lewis, formerly of this parish and now part of Knowle & Dorridge, take third in 34:11.

His Dad, David, was fifteenth and first M50 in 39:21.

Carl Follows was 24th in 42:27 and Craig Thompson 26th in 42:56.



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Mel Hepke was first Halesowen female in 29th in 43:34, Andrew Freeman was 31st in 43:56, Simon Thompson 42nd in 46:48 and Milly Allen 38th in 45:26.

The Thompson family trio was completed by Karen, who was 58th in 53:59 and Jamie Sircom got inside the hour in 60th place in 57:09.

With the moon back behind the sun, the end of series presentations followed back at the club with the best three performances counting for the series prizes.

Matthew Herbert from Bournville Harriers won the male open age category, with Andrew Freeman the best placed Halesowen athlete in eighth.

Alice Kinder from BRAT was the women's open champion and Milly Allen placed third.

Andy Yapp won the M45 and David Lewis the M50 age categories and Mel Hepke was second F50 runner

Four Halesowen runners completed all four races - Milly Allen, David Lewis, Jamie Sircom and Andy Yapp.

As always, huge thanks to Alex Morgan for organising the series and to all the volunteers who have supported the series, especially in the HACC-hosted races at Hagley and Clent.

Final results from the series and all four races can be found on the club website.

The series is due to return in 2027 so watch this space for details of next year's races!



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MIDLAND VETS LEAGUE

In the final Midland Vets League meeting in Worcester, Alex Morgan was the only event winner in the Male 60 shot, but the team performed strongly with four second place finishes for the men and three for the women.



On the night, the men's team were third and the women's team fifth and in the final end of season standings, Halesowen's men were third and the women were fourth, just half a point behind Worcester club Black Pear Joggers.

There's one more outing on Sunday September 6th, as Halesowen field a team in the League Cup Final at Nuneaton against the top teams from the League's other two divisions.

Get in touch with Alex or Roger if you fancy taking part in the end of season finale!



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BIRMINGHAM UNITY 5k

Halesowen athletes got a taste of the European Championship marathon course in the Birmingham Unity 5k.

The route followed a hilly lap around the Jewellery Quarter and the City Centre that Europe's top 26.2 milers tackled eight times just hours earlier.

Most of the HACC crew that finished in Victoira Square would agree that one 5k lap was more than enough.

The final mile was particularly brutal, featuring a 50 foot climb up Church Street before the final sprint along Colmore Row to the finish line.



The Fereday family (pictured with surrogate uncle Jamie!) were out in force with Izabella first back for the club in 646th in 23:48, Gavin 932nd in 25:29 and Zoe 1,295th in 28:11.

Andrew Price also made it a family affair, running with his son Jenson, wiith his pacing right on the button!

Both crossed the finish line in 25:40 with Jenson 954th and Andrew 956th.

Chasing the pacey Prices down was Jamie Sircom, who was 781st in 26:20 and Paul Allen was 2,237th in 35:41.



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EDGAR NICHOLLS OPEN

There was a varied programme at the Edgar Nicholls Open meeting at the Abbey Stadium in Redditch.

Peter Dear was fifth in the 800m with a new PB of 1:56:25 and Caroline McGee was third in the women's javelin with a throw of 28.66m.

Benedict Jones completed a hat-trick of events.

He won the Under 16 Boys shot with a throw of 9.74m, was second in the 1500m in 5:02.09 and second in the Javelin with 31.34m.



Charlie Jones was second in the Under 16 Boys shot (8.24m) and third in the Javelin (23.50m).

Peter was back on the track a couple of hours later, running third leg in the 4x800m relay, alongside Alex Taylor, Adam Hollis and James Hoults (pictured left).

Halesowen won the race in 8:48.85, although the focus was on the two British Masters teams who were going for World Masters records.

The M65 team came in second, setting a new European record of 10:19.30 and the M75 team of David Jones, Malcolm Weir, David Oxland and Derek Jackson were third in a new world record of 11:34.42, taking 14 seconds off the previous best time.



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The headline attraction was the Midland Championship 10,000 metres, which also doubled as the ... deep breath ... Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire & Rutland County Championships.

David Lewis was the only Halesowen competitor over 25 laps, and he finished first Worcestershire M50 athlete in 40:10.66.

MIKE LAMBERT OPEN

Our junior track athletes spent their Bank Holiday Monday rounding off their season at the Mike Lambert Open at Stourport.

Toby Ajayi completed a sprint double, finishing fourth and first U16 Boy in both races.

He ran 12.26 secs for the 100m and 26.32 secs for the 200m.

Izabella Fereday was seventh in her 800m heat in 2:37.44.

There was a close HACC battle in heat one of the 1500m.

Isabelle Wilkinson came in eleventh in 5:42.78, pipping Sam Vince by just six-hundredths of a second, with Sam coming in twelfth in 5:42:84.

Benedict Jones was sixth in heat two in 5:01.08.

Harry Wilkinson took part in the U12 Boys Quadrathlon competition.

His results were 1.94m (LJ), 2.21.90 (600m), 19.77m (Howler Throw) and 13.49 (75m).



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Caroline McGee was the club's sole senior competitor at Stourport.

She placed eighth and first female Masters athlete in the Javelin (26.47m) and the Shot (8.75m)

Caroline also placed tenth and first female Master in the Hammer (25.55m).

TRACK NEWS IN BRIEF

Barry Gardner was second in the M55 1500m in 2:17.17 at the British Masters Inter Area Match at Yate near Bristol

Paul Allen was seventh in the M70 1500m in 8:49.36.

At the Charnwood Open meeting in Loughborough on 5th August, Matt Wilkinson (Jr) was eighth in the 800m D Race in 2:03:20 and Ben Russell was sixth in the F race in 2:12.77.

Phoebe Dodd was ninth in the G race in 2:16.32.

In the 1500m E race, Ethan Jordan was fifth and first U23M in 4:29.70.

At the meeting in Loughborough on 23rd August, Matt Wilkinson was seventh in the 800m A race in 2:01.75 and Ethan Jordan was sixth in 1500m A race in 4:29.50.

ROAD NEWS IN BRIEF

In his final warm-up race ahead of next month's Berlin Marathon, Max Parker finished twelfth and third Brit in the Stockholm Half Marathon in 1:08:44.



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Max was also quickest runner for the club in a busy month of road 5ks, placing eighteenth in the Colchester Friday Night Runs 5k in 14:35.

Joe Donkin was second in the Stourport Fast and Furious 5k in 15:53.

At the Mid Cheshire 5k, James Thomas was 191st in 16:02 and Rob McWilliams was 950th in 23:01.

George Allen finished 15th in the Leeds 5k in 17:43 and Jamie Sircom finished 130th in the Summerfield 5k in 25:49.

Tackling twice the distance was Amelia Harrison who was 132nd in 45:48.63 in the Blackpool Run The Lights 10k.

And at the Timberhonger 10k in Bromsgrove, Mel Hepke was second lady and first W45 in 40th place in 45:21 and Simon Duck was 140th in 56:34.

PARKRUN

George Allen was first finisher at Roundhay parkrun #725 and James Thomas' trip to Devon included first finisher honours at Bolberry Downs parkrun #237.

Isabelle Wilkinson had another parkrun double finishing first female at Edgbaston Reservoir parkrun #241 and at Stevens Park Wollescote junior parkrun #320, which was her 100th junior event.

Heather Bills was first female finisher at Woodgate Valley parkrun #247 and Alex Taylor was first finisher two weeks later at event #249.

And junior athlete Grace Follows found the hilly new parkrun at Cofton Park to her liking, coming in first female finisher at event #4.



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GREEN BAIZE BULLETIN and FANTASY EPL UPDATE!

Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club finished in eighth place in Division Three of the inaugural Halesowen & District Summer Snooker League.

The final month was winless, although Halesowen did run Hasbury Club D close, going down to a 3-2 defeat.

The winter league resumes on Thursday September 4th, so have a word with Stu Towlson, Peter Dear, Matt Allen or any of our prime potters if you are interested in playing some competitive Thursday night frames.

And after two rounds of the new HACC Fantasy Premier League, Rob Jones' "Ndiaya Another Day" team tops the table on 162 points.

RACE CALENDAR

Sat 5 Sep	Halesowen Sports Day
Sun 6 Sep	Midland Vets League Final, Nuneaton
Wed 9 Sep	Halesowen 5000m / 3000m Club Championship
Sat 12 Sep	Telford Games Halesowen Beer Mile Relay
Fri 18 Sep	Fast & Furious 5k, Stourport
Sat 19 Sep	Midland 6/4 Stage Road Relays, Sutton Park
Sun 20 Sep	Nuneaton End of Season Open



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SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

As the summer season draws to a close, the club track will be buzzing with a number of diverse events open to all club members, (mostly!) regardless of skill or ability!

On Saturday 5th September, we will be hosting an Old School Sports Day at the track!

There'll be classic events that the European Championships unfairly rejected, such as the sack race, egg & spoon and rounders!

You can enter as an individual or as a team of five and friends and family are more than welcome to join in the fun.

The following Wednesday, 9th September, is the annual club 5000m and 3000m championship.

The 3000m is open to Under 20 athletes, and there will be three races in the 5000m.

All of the above, however, is just a warm up for the main event on Saturday 12th September, the Halesowen Beer Mile Relay.

All spaces are filled but spectators are more than welcome to watch the chaos unfold!

The summer presentation evening has been put back a couple of weeks and will now be held on Friday 9th October.

A date for your diary as we celebrate all our athletes' achievements over the summer months.



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And a quick reminder that there will once again be a club trip to Spain for the Benidorm 10k, on Saturday 21st November.

It's not too late to join the fun, especially as last year's party is now fully briefed with the best places to go .. and the ones to avoid!!

Speak to Adrian Dale if you have any (or many!) questions about the weekend.

With so much going on at the club in September, do be sure to keep across the club Facebook page and HACCentral on WhatsApp for results, event updates and the rest of the news from around the club.

Radio Halesowen Town will also keep you up to date in the Sports Report programme on Friday evenings at 6.

Up Owen!

JAMIE SIRCOM

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