



ESTD 1911

BBO Officers

President: Maxwell Cowlin (*Maidenhead AC*)

Vice Presidents: Andy Tuttle (*Newbury AC*), Martyn Cartwright (*Chiltern Harriers*)
& Ray Stevens (*Reading AC*)

Chairman: Benedict Pollard (*Eynsham Roadrunners*)

Secretary: Phil Marshall (*Newbury AC*)

Treasurer: Jessica Gibbon (*Reading AC*)

Committee Member (Medals & Trophies): Tom Baker (*Eynsham Roadrunners*)

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Cross Country Association 2026 Championships Entries Notice

Sunday, 27 September 2026



Dear Club/Team Manager/Athlete,

We are delighted to announce that the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Cross Country Association (BBO) Championships for 2026 are scheduled to be held on **Sunday, 22nd November 2026 at Broughton Castle, Banbury, OX15 5EB** and will be hosted by the BBO Committee.

Clubs, organisations and athletes are hereby warmly invited to submit their entries for the 2026 BBO Championships. The closing date and time are **Sunday, 8th November 2026 at 23:59pm**. **Note:** non-receipt of entries by the closing date may result in exclusion from the event, barring exceptional circumstances.

Volunteers Request

Volunteers will be required for the Championships to go ahead. Clubs are encouraged to supply at least one volunteer to help the BBO Association ensure the event runs smoothly, and to support the hard work of the BBO Committee. Please support us on race day by contacting the Entries Secretary / Chief Marshal to provide details of your volunteer(s): entries@bbocca.uk

Championship and Under-12 Races
<i>For the 2026 BBO Championships, teams will consist of the first three runners to finish, except in the Under-20, Senior & Veteran Men's race, in which the first team will comprise of the first six finishers.</i> <i>Under-12 races (previously Under-11 races) are not official Championship Races, but team medals and trophies will be awarded, as per the other age categories.</i> <i>Please note that race start times will be confirmed after entries close on November 8th.</i> <i>Please also note that the distances below are guidelines only, which may be updated closer to race day.</i>
Under-20, Senior & Veteran Women (The President's Shield & The Arthur Kilbery Shield)
Start Time: 11:00am Distance (approx.): 7.8km Veteran women athletes (FV35+) will be included in the competition for The Arthur Kilbery Shield. All 3 age categories run together.
Under-20, Senior & Veteran Men (Howard Palmer Shield & The Reg Green Shield)
Start Time: 11:45am Distance (approx.): 7.8km Veteran men athletes (MV35+) will be included in the competition for The Reg Green Shield. All 3 age categories run together.
Under-12 Girls (Maxwell Cowlin Shield) (not a Championship Race) (formerly Under-11s)
Start Time: 12:35pm Distance (approx.): 2.0km
Under-12 Boys (Major John Hamilton Shield) (not a Championship Race) (formerly Under-11s)
Start Time: 12:50pm Distance (approx.): 2.0km
Under-14 Girls (Bracknell 50 Shield) (formerly Under-13s)
Start Time: 1:05pm Distance (approx.): 3.5km
Under-14 Boys (H. D. Hawkins Shield) (formerly Under-13s)
Start Time: 1:25pm Distance (approx.): 3.5km
Under-16 Girls (Chairman's Shield) (formerly Under-15s)
Start Time: 1:45pm Distance (approx.): 4.4km
Under-16 Boys (Den Deane Shield) (formerly Under-15s)
Start Time: 2:10pm Distance (approx.): 4.4km
Combined Race
Under-18 Girls (Ward Shield) (formerly Under-17s) & Under-18 Boys (Desborough Challenge Cup) (formerly Under-17s)
Race Start Time: 2:35pm Race Distance (Approx.): 6.3km

Athlete Entry Fees & Payments

The entry fees remain unchanged from 2025 (using the equivalent 2026 age-groups).

Athlete Entry Fees (per athlete)	Fee
Under-20, Senior & Veteran	£ 14.00
Under-18, Under-16, Under-14	£ 12.00
Under-12	£ 10.00

Entries

Individual entries and payments can be made online, using OpenTrack: <https://data.opentrack.run/en-gb/x/2026/GBR/bboxc/>

Your entry will automatically be linked to your affiliated athletics club, allowing you to contribute to the team competition in your race.

Team Managers who wish to enter multiple athletes on behalf of their club can email the Entries Secretary at entries@bbocca.uk to request a bulk entry template, which simplifies the registration process.

Chip Timing & Race Numbers

Chip timing will be used again in 2026, with barcodes affixed to the runners' number bibs. Please collect your bibs from Race HQ / Registration on the morning of race day, which will be provided in an A4-sized envelope, one per club. Non-scoring guest athletes who are not 1st claim with a BBO area club will have their own individual envelopes provided. A course map printout will also be included. All athletes are advised to arrive early on race day, well ahead of their event, allowing plenty of time to collect numbers etc.

Entry Guidance Notes

Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements detailed below

- 1) Each **scoring competitor** must:
 - a. be a first claim member of the BBO tri-county region club, school, association or organisation they represent.
 - b. be registered with England Athletics (EA).
 - c. have paid and processed their EA registration fee.
 - d. be eligible to compete under UK Athletics (UKA) rules for cross country running.
- 2) **Non-scoring guests** are eligible to run on the following basis:
 - a. The athlete is registered second-claim for a club, school, association or organisation eligible to take part in the BBO Championships. Please contact your Team Manager in the first instance. If you have any questions, please email entries@bbocca.uk to discuss.

Or:

- b. The athlete was **born** in the BBO area (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire) or has been **living** in the BBO area for the requisite qualification period (**currently, and for the previous nine months or more**) but is not registered for a BBO eligible team (an official document may be required to confirm qualification by either of these criteria).
- 3) All entries and fees must be submitted and paid online using the OpenTrack website, or as a direct payment to the BBO for entering bulk entries.

- 4) Athlete eligibility to compete will be checked using the athlete EA registration number (URN). The status of an athlete's EA registration can be checked by visiting:
<https://myathletics.englandathletics.org/licencecheck/>
- 5) Any athlete whose entry fails the EA Licence Check will be refused entry to the 2026 BBO Cross Country Championships, unless the issue associated with his/her entry is resolved by the secondary entry deadline of Monday, 16th November 23:59pm.
- 6) Club vests must be worn in all races, except for Under-12s who may instead wear a club t-shirt.
- 7) The Under-18 Boys and Under-18 Girls run together.
- 8) Please note that it is a condition of entry that your club/team agrees to abide by the rules of the BBO Cross Country Association and accepts that in the case of any dispute, the BBO Committee's decision will be final. The current BBO Rules & Conditions can be found here:
<https://bbocca.uk/about/rules/>
- 9) We encourage clubs to promote car-sharing among club/team members.
- 10) Full details of the course maps and the schedule for the day of the Championships will be sent out to all clubs, organisations and entrants in early November 2026 in a Final Details Notice.

Age Group Categories & Changes

UK Athletics have instigated changes in the junior age groups for this season, which are summarised here:
https://d1laub10p5ibfa.cloudfront.net/2026/03/A6-Officials-Notebook_july26.pdf

The cross-country 'Competition Year' runs from 1st October 2026 to 30th September 2027, with junior age groups for the 2026/27 cross-country season determined by reference to **31st August 2027**. Please ensure all athletes are correctly entered and have valid EA affiliation (**including** Under-12s).

All athlete entries will be verified against their date of birth, as registered with England Athletics, and their age on 31st August 2027.

- **Under-12:** 10 or 11 years, Date of Birth (DOB): 1 September 2015 – 31 August 2017.
- **Under-14:** 12 or 13 years, DOB: 1 September 2013 – 31 August 2015.
- **Under-16:** 14 or 15 years, DOB: 1 September 2011 – 31 August 2013.
- **Under-18:** 16 or 17 years, DOB: 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2011.
- **Under-20:** 18 or 19 years, DOB: 1 September 2007 – 31 August 2009.
- **Senior:** 20 to 34 years, on race day (November 22nd 2026).
- **Veteran / Master:** 35 years and above, on race day (November 22nd 2026). Please note the Vet-40 category used in many other men's events is not applied at the BBO Championships.

Championship Prizes

The Medals and Trophies will be presented inside the Castle Gatehouse, across the moat, by the lawn.

Broughton Castle has been in the same family since 1377, and we are honoured to announce that the present steward – Lord Martin Fiennes, 22nd Baron Saye & Sele – has kindly agreed to present some medals and trophies to the winning runners and teams.

Others who will be awarding prizes include:

- **The BBO President**
- **The BBO Vice-Presidents**
- **Jess Gibbon:** BBO Treasurer, GB-athlete & recent women's UK and Inter-Counties XC Champion
- **Samantha Amend:** GB & England marathon & ultra-distance runner, and recent British 100-mile women's record holder

Prizes are as follows:

- **Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18 categories**
 - Medals awarded to the first three finishers in each category
 - Medals awarded to the first three athletes of the first three teams in each category
 - Category trophy awarded to the winning teams
- **Under-20, Senior, Veteran/Master**
 - Medals awarded to the first three Under 20, Senior and Veteran/Master finishers
 - Medals awarded to the first three athletes (the first six in men's races) of the first three teams
 - Overall team trophy awarded to the winning men's and women's teams
 - Veteran team trophy awarded to the winning veteran men's and women's teams

Under-12 Races and Trophies

Under-12 races will not be official Championship events. However, non-Championship medals will be awarded for the first three finishers, and for the three members of each winning team, as well as team trophies:

The **Under-12 Girls' Team** trophy - the **Maxwell Cowlin Shield**.
In honour of our current BBO President.

The **Under-12 Boys' Team** trophy - the **Major John Hamilton Shield**.
In honour of the late Major Hamilton, BBO Ambassador in 2024, who did XC as far back as 1928!

Race Day roles of the BBO organising committee

The BBO once again takes on the role of 'host club' and our roles are as follows:

Race Director & Venue Liaison: Benedict Pollard chair@bbocca.uk

Entries Secretary, Chief Marshal & Suppliers Co-ordination: Phil Marshall entries@bbocca.uk

Treasurer & Finance: Jess Gibbon treasurer@bbocca.uk

Course Design & Setup: Benedict Pollard & Andy Tuttle

Entry Bibs, Medals & Trophies: Tom Baker

We are all looking forward to welcoming you to the magnificent Broughton Castle on 22nd November for what promises to be another excellent day, and in the meantime, we trust that your training goes well.



Benedict Pollard
Chairman & Race Director

Sponsor

We are delighted and grateful for the ongoing sponsorship from **Mighty Fine Oaks** - growers and suppliers of oak trees of ancient pedigree. Do please visit their website and support them by following their social media: www.mightyfineoaks.com | www.instagram.com/mightyfineoaks | www.x.com/mightyfineoaks