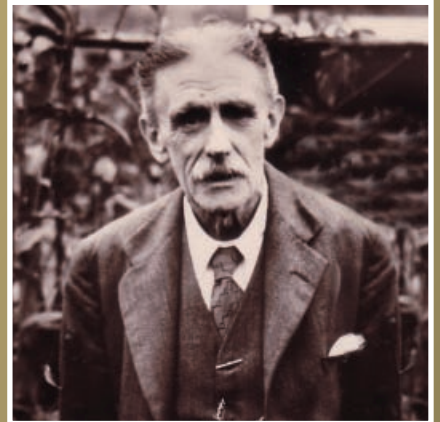


HALL *of* FAME



2010

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INTRODUCTION

As I write this foreword, England's athletes are in Doha before their move to New Delhi for the Commonwealth Games. These championships have been the stage upon which many of our great World and Olympic athletes achieved success; Dorothy Tyler, Roger Bannister, Dorothy Hyman, Brendan Foster, David Hemery, Daley Thompson, Steve Cram, Sally Gunnell, Linford Christie, Steve Backley, Kelly Holmes, Denise Lewis, Paula Radcliffe, Philips Idowu and Christine Ohuruogu are just a few of the great athletes to spring to mind and there are many others who could be added to this list.

It's fitting that we should have the opportunity to recognise the achievements of these athletes at the England Athletics' Hall of Fame evening and that we are able to thank them publicly for the excitement, the pleasure and the pride that they have given to so many of us over the years.

It's the performances of the individuals who are inducted into the Hall of Fame that inspire the younger athletes not just to take up the sport but also to emulate their success and to carry on the tradition of athletics excellence in this country which make athletics the most popular Olympic sport.

This second Hall of Fame commemorative publication will act as a permanent reminder not just of this evening but of these great athletes.



John Graves
Chair, England Athletics

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MARK SHEARMAN

LINFORD CHRISTIE

Born: 2.4.1960, St Andrews (Jamaica)

Clubs: London Irish AC; Thames Valley Harriers

Major medals: **Gold** – 1986 European Indoor 200m; 1986 European 100m; 1988 European Indoor 60m; 1990 European Indoor 60m; 1990 Commonwealth 100m; 1990 European 100m; 1992 Olympic 100m; 1993 World 100m; 1994 Commonwealth 100m; 1994 European 100m; **Silver** – 1986 Commonwealth 100m; 1988 Olympic 100m; 1991 World Indoor 60m & 200m; **Bronze** – 1987 World 100m; 1988 European Indoor 200m; 1990 European 200m

World records: 200m (indoor) – 20.25 in 1995; 4x200m relay – 1:22.11 in 1991

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010

He had two predecessors as Olympic champion in Harold Abrahams (1924) and Allan Wells (1980), but there is no disputing that Linford Christie – the 1992 gold medallist – was the most successful of all British 100m runners. In addition to his Barcelona victory he won the 1993 world title in a European record of 9.87 which at the time was just 1/100th outside Carl Lewis's world record, he captured several European and Commonwealth titles and was consistent at the highest world level over a lengthy period.

Born in Jamaica, Christie was brought to Britain at the age of seven and grew up just a stone's throw from the former home of British athletics, White City Stadium – where he ran in a primary schools meeting. He started his club career as a long and triple jumper for London Irish AC and at 17, in his first year of sprinting (1977), ran 10.9 for 100m. Coached by Ron Roddan at West London Stadium (which in 1993 would be renamed after Christie), he switched to Thames Valley Harriers in 1982 but, following the 1984 season, Roddan gave him an ultimatum on the lines of "either work seriously or don't waste my time."

That was the turning point. His personal bests then were 10.44 and 21.38 but in 1985 he clocked a wind assisted 10.20. It was as a 200m runner, though, that he first made his mark internationally at the 1986 European Indoor Championships. Hoping just to make the final, he won in 21.10 – giving him new self confidence and confirming that hard training did make all the difference. That summer he smashed Wells' UK record with a startling 10.04, finished second to a certain Ben Johnson at the Commonwealth Games and became Britain's first European 100m champion for 40 years.

Two years later, Johnson having been disqualified, Christie was awarded the silver medal in the Seoul Olympic 100m in a European record 9.97 and placed fourth over 200m with a UK record 20.09. His greatest seasons were 1992 and 1993. He took the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona in 9.96, becoming at 32 the oldest man to win that title, and the following year with the greatest run of his life he captured the world championship. Still he wasn't finished, for indoors in 1995 he set a European 60m record of 6.47 and world 200m record of 20.25. In 1996 he took a record eighth AAA 100m title, in 1997 he won his eighth consecutive European Cup 100m and in 1998 he set a world age-38 best of 10.38.

A successful coach, he remains one of the most recognisable names in British athletics.

Brendan Foster won just about every honour in the sport barring the supreme prize, an Olympic gold medal. Today, some 30 years after his retirement from the track, he remains one of the best known personalities in British athletics thanks to his BBC television commentaries and his brainchild, the Great North Run.

A member of Gateshead Harriers from age 15, he started as a quarter-miler but, coached by Stan Long, he gradually moved up in distance and ran a 4:07.4 mile in 1967. While reading chemistry at Sussex University, he improved to 3:47.1 for 1500m in 1969 and the following year he made a major breakthrough. He ran the second fastest ever 2 miles by a Briton of 8:30.8 and took the bronze medal at 1500m in a personal best of 3:40.6 at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, his international baptism. He began as he intended to carry on: the bigger the occasion the better he would run.

In 1971 he placed third in the European 1500m championship and set his first British record, 8:24.8 for 2 miles. He moved to third on the UK all-time list with a 3:55.9 mile in 1972 and finished fifth in the Olympic 1500m final in Munich. But realising he would never be a world beater at those distances he moved up to 5000m in 1973 and in his first serious test ran away with the AAA title in 13:23.8. He returned to Crystal Palace to break Lasse Viren's world 2 miles record with 8:13.68.

'Big Bren' set two British records at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. A close second to Ben Jipcho at 5000m in 13:14.6, for third on the world all-time list, he found a 3:37.6 1500m sufficed only for seventh in a fantastic race won by Filbert Bayi in a world record 3:32.2. That summer, as the newly appointed Sports & Recreation Manager for Gateshead, he enjoyed his day of days when – at the opening meeting on the town's new Tartan track before 10,000 adoring fans – he smashed the world 3000m record with 7:35.1. His uncompromising competitive qualities were displayed in the European 5000m championship in Rome where, in sweltering conditions, he threw in a daring 60.2 lap mid-race, was 80m clear at the bell and won handsomely in 13:17.2.

He made the world's quickest ever 10,000m debut with 27:45.4 in 1975, but an upset stomach meant he was not at his best at the 1976 Olympics, finishing third – Britain's only athletics medallist in Montreal. He achieved a great ambition by winning the national cross country title in 1977 and in 1978 he set a European 10,000m record of 27:30.3, second only to Henry Rono's world record. Towards the end of a momentous career he ran his first and only serious marathon, clocking 2:15:49 ... and never dreaming that one day he would be the commentator on a woman running the distance faster through the streets of London!



MARK SHEARMAN

BRENDAN FOSTER

Born: 12.1.1948, Hebburn
(Co Durham; now Tyne & Wear)

Club: Gateshead Harriers

Major medals: Gold – 1974 European 5000m; 1978 Commonwealth 10,000m; Silver – 1974 Commonwealth 5000m; Bronze – 1970 Commonwealth 1500m; 1971 European 1500m; 1976 Olympic 10,000m; 1978 Commonwealth 5000m

World records: 3000m – 7:35.1 in 1974;
2 miles – 8:13.68 in 1973

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010



WALTER GEORGE

Born: 9.9.1858, Calne (Wiltshire); died 4.6.1943

Club: Moseley Harriers

World Records included: 1000 yards – 2:18.0 in 1881; $\frac{3}{4}$ mile – 3:08 $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1882; mile – 4:23.2 in 1880, 4:19.4 in 1882, 4:18.4 in 1884, 4:12 $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1886 (as professional); 2000m – 5:44.0 in 1882; 2 miles – 9:17.4 in 1884; 3 miles – 14:39.0 in 1884; 4 miles – 19:39.8 in 1884; 6 miles – 30:21.2 in 1884; 10,000m – 31:40.0 in 1884; 10 miles – 51:20.0 in 1884; 1 hour – 18,555m (11 miles 932 yards) in 1884

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010



Of all of England's greatest athletes, W. G. George was the one most in advance of his time. When he, at 19, announced that one day he would run the mile in 4:12, his claim was met with amusement if not ridicule. The year was 1878 and the world's best by an amateur stood at 4:24.5 by Walter Slade in 1875 although the professional record was far superior at 4:17 $\frac{1}{4}$. But Walter George would have the last laugh, for in 1886 he would set a record of 4:12 $\frac{3}{4}$ which would remain unbeaten by anyone until 1915 ... and it wasn't until 1935 that another Briton, Sydney Wooderson no less, would run faster!

It was later in 1878 that George won his first mile race, and he developed at such a remarkable rate that the very next season he became English champion at both the mile and 4 miles, and in 1880 – still only 21 – he lowered Slade's record to 4:23.2.

The lightly built apprentice chemist, just under 6ft tall and weighing but 136lb, carried all before him in 1882. In addition to winning the English cross country title he set world records at 6 miles and 10 miles before reducing the mile record to 4:19.4. At the AAA Championships he won the 880 yards, mile and 4 miles and added the 10 miles title two days later. He then went on to break the 2 miles record and in November he journeyed to New York to meet the equally celebrated American, Lon Myers, in a series of three races. Myers won the half mile clash, with George close behind in a British record of 1:57.0, but George triumphed at the mile and three-quarter mile to clinch the rubber and be acknowledged as the world's greatest runner.

His 1884 season was even more prodigious. Again he claimed the English cross country title and proceeded to reel off world records at 2 miles, 3 miles, 4 miles, 6 miles, 10,000m, 10 miles and the hour, not to mention setting a world amateur mile record of 4:18.4 at the AAA Championships. Having achieved everything open to him in the amateur field, George turned professional. In 1885 he ran a 4:10.2 time trial and the following year he won a match race in 4:12 $\frac{3}{4}$. He was aged 27 and would be 76 before a Briton ran faster! Also in 1886 he claimed to have run a 10 miles time trial in 49:29, a mark which was not achieved in competition until 1946. He was indeed decades ahead of his time.

He was an innovator too in the field of training and at the time of his death, in 1943 aged 84, the Swedish milers Gunder Hägg and Arne Andersson were approaching very close to four minutes, nurtured on a speed-play system of training known as 'fartlek'. And on what did Gosta Holmer, the system's originator, base 'fartlek'? Why, on the training methods of one W. G. George.

Few people have made such a lasting and wide-ranging contribution to their chosen sport as 'Jimmy' Green. He was the man who had the vision, enthusiasm and courage to start the magazine that would evolve into Athletics Weekly soon after he was demobbed from the RAF in 1945. Everyone told him he was crazy, he could never make a go of it, but Green was determined to provide a unique service for the sport he had loved all his life. With sparse coverage of athletics in the newsprint-rationed newspapers of that time he realised it was vital for the well-being of British club athletics that results, news and information should be made available.

From the first issue of what began as a monthly magazine entitled Athletics, in December 1945, it was an uphill struggle. Working on his own was tough going and there were financial sacrifices to be made but, ever so gradually, the publication became accepted as an essential requirement for athletes, coaches, officials and fans, and in 1950 it blossomed forth as a weekly. It was a modest little publication, selling for sixpence (2.5p), but groundbreaking in its scope as the club athlete's magazine.

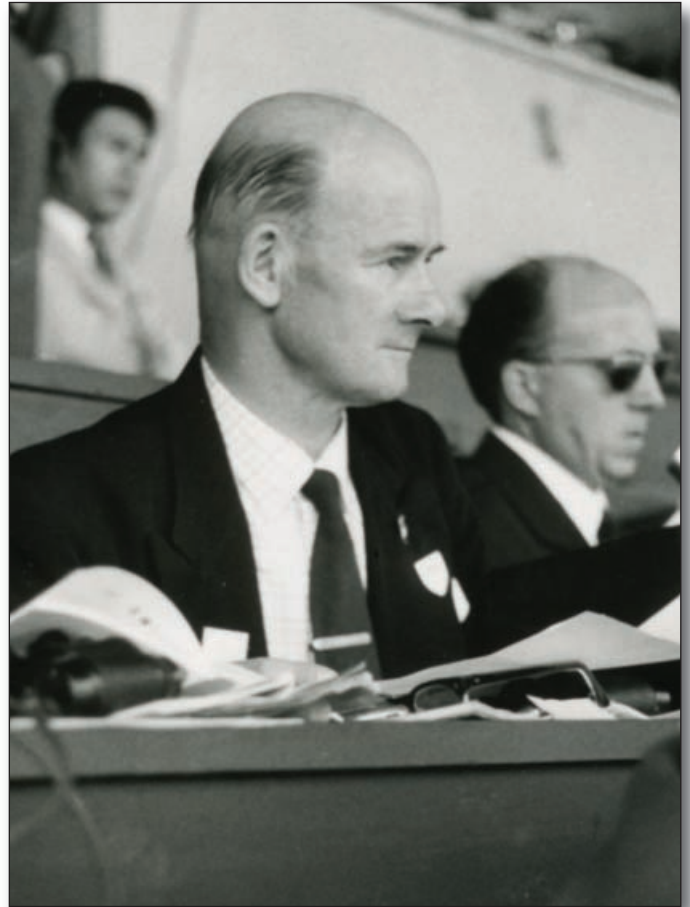
Over the years it documented, in increasing detail, all the essential results and news and served as a forum for the sport. He and Mel Watman, who joined the staff as assistant editor in 1961 and took over the editor's chair in 1968 while "Jimmy" concentrated more on the business and advertising side, built up the circulation to a peak of almost 25,000 during the boom years of the 1980s. He continued, well into his seventies, to help out his son Tim who succeeded him as business and advertising manager.

'AW' was just one of Green's contributions to athletics. He had been a good runner in his day, starting as a sprinter with Surrey AC and going on to represent the AAA and RAF at 880 yards, mile and 2 miles (he raced against his great friend Sydney Wooderson) and finished 29th in the AAA Marathon of 1948.

As a starter he was one of the country's best, officiating at the AAA Championships and several international matches at the White City. He had wide experience of administration at club and county level, including a stint at President of Kent County AAA, and helped organise many top class meetings. He was one of the first senior coaches to be appointed and among his protégés was AAA 3 miles champion Roy Beckett.

Perhaps his greatest joy in his later years was coaching young female athletes from City of Rochester AC and Medway AC, and he campaigned long, hard and ultimately successfully for longer races to be sanctioned for those age groups. He also derived pleasure from the achievements of his grandson, Clifton Green, the AAA under-15 javelin champion in 1994.

He was indeed the renaissance man of athletics.



P.W. 'JIMMY' GREEN

Born: 20.4.1909; died 23.3.1998

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010



ALBERT HILL

Born: 24.3.1889, Tooting (London); died 8.1.1969

Clubs: Gainsford AC, Polytechnic Harriers

Major medals: Gold – 1920 Olympic 800m & 1500m;
Silver – 1920 Olympic 3000m team race

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010

Britain's star athlete of the 1920 Olympic Games was Albert Hill, who completed a monumental 800m/1500m double – the last to do so until New Zealand's Peter Snell in 1964, and a feat not emulated by any Briton until Kelly Holmes in Athens in 2004.

Although he first made a name for himself as a cross country and long distance track runner (he won the AAA 4 miles title in 1910), he was destined to be the first link in a chain of brilliant half milers which graced British athletics between the two world wars.

After serving in France for three years with the Royal Flying Corps he was 30 by the time he was able to resume his athletics career, but he quickly made his mark by winning the AAA 880 yards and mile double in 1919, equalling the British mile record of 4:16.8 later in the year. Hill, a chain-smoking railway ticket collector who trained all of twice a week, wanted to go for the Olympic double in Antwerp but after finishing second to South Africa's Bevil Rudd in the 1920 AAA 880 yards and not contesting the mile he was at first definitely selected only for the 800m. After forcefully arguing his case with Sir Harry Barclay, the AAA honorary secretary, the selection committee relented and he was named also for the 1500m.

His faith in his own ability was justified at the Games. First he triumphed in the 800m in the British record time of 1:53.4 – a race which he declared to be the most satisfying of his long career in terms of judgement and tactics. Two days later he lined up for the 1500m final, run in pouring rain on a very heavy cinder track, and won that in 4:01.8 followed home by team-mate Philip Baker, who as Philip Noel-Baker, MP, would win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1959. At 31 Hill remains to this day the oldest man ever to have won an Olympic 800m or 1500m title ... and still his labours weren't over for he subsequently took part in the final of the 3000m team race in which he won a silver medal. The Times described Hill as "not only one of the greatest of runners, but also a runner of unbeaten courage and a great track tactician to boot."

The post-script to Hill's career came in 1921. He planned to lower the world mile record (then 4:12.6) to 4:08 at the AAA Championships, but the pressures of competition and the large field caused his proposed even pace schedule to be jettisoned. Instead, leading all the way with uneven lap times, he broke the British record by fully three seconds with 4:13.8. Hill turned to coaching, his most successful pupil being Sydney Wooderson who in 1937 brought the world mile record to Britain. He later settled in Canada, where he died at the age of 79.

Previously unknown outside her native Kent, 13-year-old Kelly Holmes was the surprising winner of the Junior Girls' 1500m at the 1983 English Schools' Championships, and so began an Olympic dream which would finally come true all of 21 years later. The following year she watched the Los Angeles Olympics on TV and Seb Coe became her hero. "He was an aggressive runner who didn't give up and his determination was obvious. I identified with that even then."

In 1987 she became English Schools' Senior 1500m champion and represented Britain at Junior level but, once she left school, athletics ceased to be a priority. She joined the Army at 17 and put her military career first, and it was only at the urging of the Army's star athlete, Kriss Akabusi, that she resumed training in 1989. She did win the Inter-Services 1500m that year but her times were relatively modest. The turning point was when she watched the 1992 Olympics on TV and recognised Lisa York running in the 3000m – an athlete she had often raced during their schooldays. "It dawned on me," Kelly reflected in her autobiography, "if she could make it to the Olympics, then maybe I could too."

She began to train seriously again and took British athletics by storm in 1993. Short but well muscled after working hard on her upper body strength, she was a revelation at 800m, setting an English record of 1:58.64. The following year she burst forth as a world class 1500m runner, taking a silver medal at the European Championships and winning at the Commonwealth Games in her first serious season at the event. Medals of other denominations would continue to come her way but, her career constantly interrupted by injuries and illness, that would remain the only gold for eight often frustrating years.

Her Olympic hopes in 1996 were dashed when just prior to the Games she developed a hairline fracture in her lower left leg. Injections helped numb the pain and it was remarkable that she should finish fourth in the 800m. The next year she was favourite for the world 1500m title but broke down in her heat with a torn Achilles tendon. Further serious setbacks followed but almost miraculously she finished third in the 2000 Olympic 800m. What, one wondered, was she capable of if only she ever had a full year of injury-free training and racing? We and she found out in 2004. At the Athens Olympics she not only won the 800m in 1:56.38, her fastest for nine years, but came back to take the 1500m in the UK record time of 3:57.90! As she wrote: "The feeling was indescribable. I had achieved my lifetime's dream twice over."

In 2005 she was made a Dame and since her retirement has done wonderful work mentoring several of Britain's most promising young middle distance runners and is currently President of Commonwealth Games England.



MARK SHEARMAN

DAME KELLY HOLMES

Born: 19.4.1970, Pembury (Kent)

Clubs: Tonbridge AC; Middlesex Ladies; Ealing Southall & Middlesex AC

Major medals: **Gold** – 1994 Commonwealth 1500m; 2002 Commonwealth 1500m; 2004 Olympic 800m & 1500m; **Silver** – 1994 European 1500m; 1995 World 1500m; 1998 Commonwealth 1500m; 2003 World Indoor 1500m; 2003 World 800m; **Bronze** – 1995 World 800m, 2000 Olympic 800m, 2002 European 800m

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010



GERRY CHURHAM

JOHN LE MASURIER

Born: 24.7.1917

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2008

As was the case with Denis Watts, Guernsey-born John Le Masurier was quite unlike his mentor, the dynamic and extrovert Geoff Dyson. Although like Dyson he rose to the rank of Major during the War – as a Royal Marine, serving in the Middle East, Sicily, Germany and Holland – John Le Mas (as he was always affectionately known) preferred a mild, laid-back approach to coaching ... and just how effective that was can be gauged from the imposing list of athletes he advised.

He took up athletics in 1935, describing his active career as 'unspectacular' although he did run 440 yards hurdles in 58.5 and was Northern Universities champion, and after receiving a First Class Honours Diploma from Loughborough Colleges he began coaching in 1939. After the War he taught PE for three years at King's School, Peterborough, before being appointed AAA National Coach for the South of England in 1949. In 1961 he and Denis Watts became joint AAA Principal National Coaches and both served the sport well in that capacity until their retirement in 1978.

John Le Mas was one of the most versatile of coaches, his quiet authority, gentle persuasion and wide-ranging knowledge of training and technique helping sprinters, middle distance and cross country runners, hurdlers, jumpers, throwers and all-rounders to fulfil their potential.

His crowning glory was Mary Rand, a prodigiously gifted athlete he began coaching after the 1958 season. She went on to become the sport's "golden girl", winning the long jump with a world record 6.76m, finishing second in the pentathlon (becoming only the second woman ever to exceed 5000 points on the scoring system then in use) and third in the 4x100m relay at the Tokyo Olympics of 1964. Of that historic long jump, John Le Mas wrote: "Technically it was superb. This was not only the finest performance ever by an athlete with whom I have been associated, but it set the pattern for the greatest series of performances ever by a British track and field team in the Olympic Games."

Other pupils who made their mark included such British record setters as Bob Frith (indoor sprints), Dave Segal (200m), the current AAA chairman Chris Carter (800m), Diane Leather (who had earlier been the first woman to break five minutes for the mile), Jack Parker (120 yards hurdles), Angus Scott and Harry Kane (440 yards hurdles), Fred Alsop (triple jump), Mark Pharaoh, Bill Tancred and Gerry Carr (discus), Sue Platt (javelin) and Ann Wilson (pentathlon), plus Commonwealth shot champion Martyn Lucking.

His first major international assignment was at the 1954 Commonwealth Games in Vancouver and he was British team coach at the five Olympics between 1960 and 1976. One of his most memorable moments was as chief team coach in Volgograd in 1963 when the British team famously beat Russia.

Together with John Le Masurier, Denis Watts served as Principal National Coach following the resignation of Geoff Dyson, an inaugural Hall of Fame inductee, retiring in 1978 after 30 years of distinguished service with the AAA and BAAB.

He started coaching in 1941 while serving as an RAF physical training instructor but also developed into a formidable athlete himself. He was a British international at both the long jump and triple jump, and in 1946 became the first man ever to complete a AAA Championships double in those events. The following year he retained the triple jump crown, while internationally his most notable performance was placing sixth in the long jump at the 1946 European Championships. His best marks were 7.28m in 1946 and a wind assisted 14.40m in 1947. An all-round sportsman, he also played rugby for London Welsh and cricket for Hertfordshire.

Following a spell as a teacher at Merchant Taylors' School in Great Crosby, Liverpool, he was appointed by the AAA as one of Britain's first professional coaches in 1948. As National Coach for the Northern Counties he helped club trainers raise their levels of expertise as well as personally coaching several athletes to international standard. One of his great successes was Dorothy Hyman, who at 17 had best times of 12.0 for 100m and 25.2 for 220y before Denis was invited to coach her from the winter of 1958/1959. In 1959 she won the first of four WAAA sprint doubles, in 1960 she won Olympic silver (100m) and bronze (200m) medals and during a brilliant career which lasted until 1970 she claimed European and Commonwealth titles and posted European records of 11.3 for 100m and 23.4 for 200m.

Other athletes he moulded into performers of the highest class included such British record breakers as 400m hurdler Tom Farrell and 800m runner Andy Carter, as well as Olympic relay medallists Janet Simpson and Tim Graham. Together with her father, George, he also helped in the development of Lillian Board, an Olympic 400m silver medallist and European 800m champion before her shockingly premature death, but his ultimate triumph was with Ann Packer. She was primarily a 200m runner before Denis Watts persuaded her that she would do better at longer distances. She quickly made her mark at 400m and in 1964 came that fateful move up to 800m, culminating in the Olympic gold medal in world record time to set alongside her 400m silver.

A rather shy but inspirational man who could coax great performances from his athletes, he was also responsible for numerous authoritative books on athletics training and coaching. As his fellow National Coach, Wilf Paish, wrote in an obituary: "Not only was Denis a great coach, he was a prolific writer and an excellent ambassador for the sport – qualities that were recognised when he was awarded an MBE in the late seventies."



DENIS WATTS

Born: 31.7.1920; died 10.6.2005

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2010



MARK SHEARMAN

PAULA RADCLIFFE

Born: 17.12.1973, Barnton, near Northwich (Cheshire)

Clubs: Frodsham Harriers; Bedford & County AC

Major medals: **Gold** – 1992 World Junior Cross Country; 1998 European CC; 2000 World Half Marathon; 2001 World 8km CC; 2001 World Half Marathon; 2002 World 8km CC; 2002 Commonwealth 5000m; 2002 European 10,000m; 2003 World Half Marathon; 2003 European CC; 2005 World Marathon; **Silver** – 1997 World CC; 1998 World 8km CC; 1999 World 10,000m; 2001 World 4km CC; **Bronze** – 1999 World 8km CC

World records: **5km** – 14:48 in 2003; **8km** – 24:05 in 2003; **5 miles** – 24:47 in 1999; **10km** – 30:21 in 2003; **15km** – 46:41 in 2003; **10 miles** – 50:01 in 2003; **20km** – 62:21 in 2003; **Half Marathon** – 65:40 in 2003; **25km** – 1:20:36 in 2003; **30km** – 1:36:36 in 2003; **20 miles** – 1:43:33 in 2003; **Marathon** – 2:17:18 in 2002, 2:15:25 in 2003



ATHLETE *of the* DECADE

No other British athlete has pushed out the frontiers of performance in the way that Paula Radcliffe has in the marathon or been so far ahead of the world's second best in their event. Her time of 2:15:25 in the 2003 London Marathon was a truly phenomenal achievement. No woman in the world, other than herself, has yet run faster than 2:18:47 ... a gap representing one kilometre of road. For the past two years no one has broken even 2:22. Her record time is over seven minutes quicker than Emil Zátopek's when he famously won the 1952 Olympic title and only a few seconds slower than Abebe Bikila's world record equalling run at the 1960 Games. Like Jim Peters half a century earlier, Paula has revolutionised the marathon; unlike him she has a global title (the 2005 world championship) to her name besides being a fabulous track and cross country runner.

Her career started modestly. At the 1986 English Cross Country Championships, aged 12, she finished 299th, but a year later she placed fourth in the same race, with her Bedford club winning the team title which pleased her coaches, Alex and Rosemary Stanton, even more. Her first individual national cross country title came as an Intermediate in 1991 and just a year later, in snowy Boston, she created a sensation by becoming World Junior champion, ahead of China's Wang Junxia who the following year would set seemingly unreal world record times at 3000m and 10,000m. Their paths would cross again at the 1996 Olympics where Wang won the 5000m with Paula fifth. That year she succeeded Zola Budd as UK 5000m record holder and graduated from Loughborough University with first class honours in Modern European Studies.

For the next three years Paula's uncompromising front running carried her to records galore, including world bests on the road, but time and again she was outspurred at the end of her most important track and cross country races. In 1998 she was second in the World Cross Country and fifth in the European 10,000m; in 1999 she was third in the World XC and second in the World Championships 10,000m; in 2000 (the year she married 3:34.76 1500m runner Gary Lough) she once again ran herself into the ground in the Olympic 10,000m to finish fourth.

It was at the end of 2000 that the tide began to turn and the plucky loser became a winner at the highest level. She captured the World Half Marathon title and in 2001 she finally realised her dream – at the eighth



MARK SHEARMAN

attempt – of winning the senior version of the World Cross Country. She was disappointed by her fourth place in the 10,000m at the World Championships that year but in 2002 she carried all before her. After retaining her World Cross Country title she made a momentous marathon debut in London, clocking the world's second fastest ever time of 2:18:56, a world record for a women-only race; demonstrated she had lost none of her track speed by setting a Commonwealth 3000m record of 8:22.22 and followed that with brilliant victories at the Commonwealth Games (Commonwealth record of 14:31.42) and European Championships (European record of 30:01.09); and ended the year with a world record 2:17:18 in the Chicago Marathon. In April 2003 she wowed the world of athletics even more with her stunning 2:15:25 in London for the biggest single improvement in the world record for 20 years.

Other triumphs would follow, including a third London win and the coveted World title in 2005 (becoming the first British marathoner to win a global championship), and three New York victories between 2004 and 2008, but injuries and illness played havoc with her preparations all too often and she was unable to do herself justice in her two Olympic marathons, unable to finish in 2004 and 23rd in 2008. Hopefully, a third chance awaits her in London 2012; she will be 38 – Constantina Dita's age when she won the gold medal in Beijing!



MARK SHEARMAN

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES



HAROLD ABRAHAM

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

Immortalised in Chariots of Fire as Europe and England's first Olympic 100m champion he was also an athletics journalist, historian and statistician, radio commentator, leading administrator and official. He was an influential member of the IAAF, co-founder of the Association of Track & Field Statisticians and first president of its British offshoot, the NUTS.



MARK SHEARMAN

MALCOLM ARNOLD

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

A distinguished coaching career has seen him guide four athletes to becoming Olympic or world champion. Appointed Welsh National Coach in 1974, a position he held for 20 years. He has served as British Athletics Head Coach, UK Athletics Performance Director, UKA Senior Performance Coach and National Event Coach for Hurdles.



MARK SHEARMAN

STEVE BACKLEY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

The first British male to set a field event world record and his medal haul was awesome. 1987 European junior champion, a world junior record of 79.50 in 1988. Won three Commonwealth titles, four European championships. He unleashed a world record throw of 89.58, and reclaimed the record from Jan Zelezny with 90.98. The first Briton to obtain an Olympic medal in three Games.



MARK SHEARMAN

SIR ROGER BANNISTER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

For many people the most historic moment in sport is when Sir Roger ran 3:59.4 to clock the first ever 4min mile at Iffley Road Track, Oxford, in May 1954. But it was not only the clock he could conquer. He went head-to-head with arch-rival and fellow sub-4 runner John Landy in the Empire Games and won in 3:58.8 to 3:59.6; the first time two men broke 4min in the same race.



MARK SHEARMAN

CHRIS BRASHER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

An incredibly diverse contributor to athletics. He was a pacemaker when Sir Roger Bannister ran the first the 4min mile, Olympic gold medallist in the 1956 Olympic steeplechase, the founding father of English Orienteering, an award winning journalist, inventor of the Brasher boot, founder of the sportswear company that is now Sweatshop and provided a lasting legacy as co-founder of the London Marathon.

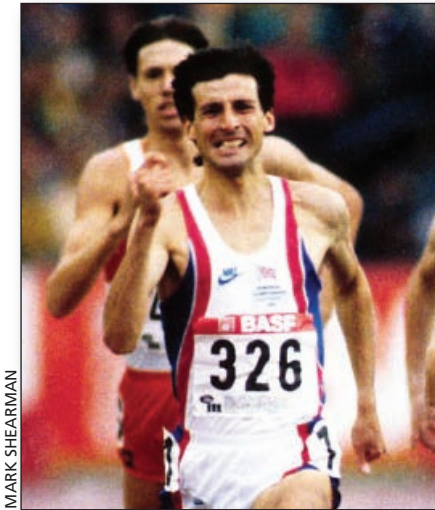


LORD BURGHELEY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

Lord Burghley won Olympic gold. He held British records at 120, 220 and 440 yard hurdles. In 1927 he shared the world record for 440 yard hurdles. He won the 120 yards and 440 yards hurdles at the Empire Games in 1930. Off the track he gave great service with the International Olympic Committee, AAA, British Olympic Association, IAAF and as chairman of the organising committee for the 1948 Olympics.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)



MARK SHEARMAN

LORD SEBASTIAN COE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

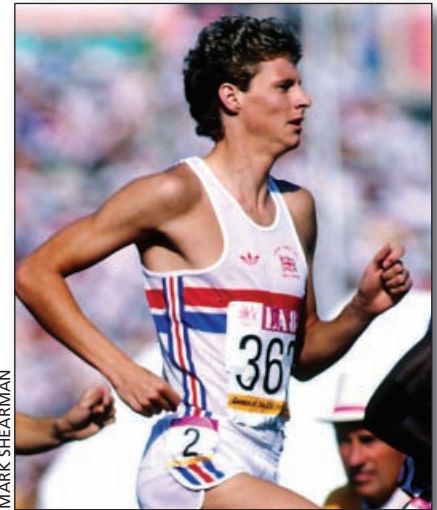
Won the Olympic 1500m titles in both 1980 and 1984, plus numerous championship medals. His 1981 world record for 800m was ahead of its time and has still only been surpassed by two athletes! Coe also set world records at 1500m, mile and the 1000m. He has since become known as the man who brought the Olympics to England.



DAVID COLEMAN

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

David Coleman is the athletics and sports commentator for the BBC whose voice provided the soundtrack to some of the most historic moments in the sport. Coleman started work for the BBC in 1954 and his work included covering 11 summer Olympic Games and many other world class events making his words synonymous with many of the greatest athletics performances achieved.



MARK SHEARMAN

STEVE CRAM

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

Held an unprecedented hat-trick of 1500m titles – European, Commonwealth and World – and a silver medal in the Olympics. The first man to crack 3:30 for 1500m, and also broke world records at the mile and 2000m in a glorious spell of just 19 days! He has since retained a high profile in the sport as a BBC athletics commentator.



GEOFF DYSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

Geoff Dyson has been described as the father of coaching. He was the first chief national coach, establishing a network of qualified coaches and set standards for coaching in this country. His classic book *The Mechanics of Athletics* was published in 1961 and ran to eight editions, being translated into five languages.



MARK SHEARMAN

JONATHAN EDWARDS

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

Won two Commonwealth Games silvers, a World Championships bronze, and a World Cup before being hit by Epstein Barr virus. His 1995 comeback in saw a UK record of 17.58, 18.43 & 18.39 at the European Cup (wind-aided), a world record of 17.98, then 18.16 & 18.29 to dominate the World Championships. Won at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and further world titles in 2001 and 2002. Now part of the BBC commentary team.



MARK SHEARMAN

SALLY GUNNELL

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

Her career saw her win World Championships silver in 1991, Olympic gold in 1992 and World Championships gold (in a world record) in 1993. In the Commonwealth Games she won gold in 1986, 1990 and 1994. One of few athletes to hold Commonwealth, World, Olympic and European titles at same time.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)

MARK SHEARMAN



DAVID HEMERY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

Broke the world record for 400m hurdles in the 1968 Olympic final, the first time in 36 years a British man won an Olympic title in a world record. The performance was a display of speed, stamina, technique and composure; it saw him voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year. He won Olympic bronze in 1972 and was twice Commonwealth Games sprint hurdles champion.



DAVID HOLDING

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

David Holding's career saw him excel at an incredible range of distances with four London Marathon titles in the wheelchair event in 1989, 1994, 1996 and 1997, a Paralympic title at 100m in Atlanta in 1996, and a world championships title at 100m in 1998. David also won the 1994 World title at 1500m.

MARK SHEARMAN



STEVE OVETT

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

Always regarded as the 'athlete's athlete' Steve Overt notably won the 800m gold medal at the Moscow Olympics. He won many other national and international championship medals at 800m, 1500m and a Commonwealth Games 5000m title. He possessed a ferocious kick which would often be followed by a celebratory wave to the crowd. He also set world records at 1500m and the mile.

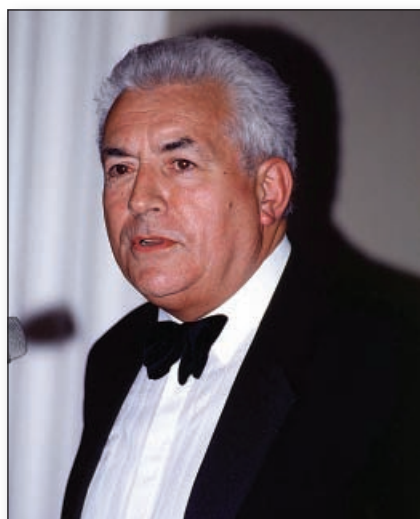
MARK SHEARMAN



ANN PACKER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

Started as a sprinter, hurdler and jumper but found fame at 800m and retired immediately after her 1964 Olympic success, aged only 22. WAAA long jump champion in 1960, finalist in the 1962 European Championships at 200m and 80m hurdles at the Commonwealth Games. She moved to 400m in 1963. A silver in the 400m in the Tokyo Olympics was followed by the enchanting world record breaking run for 800m gold.



RON PICKERING

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

The renaissance man of British athletics - coach, broadcaster, writer, motivator, visionary, administrator ... he was the conscience and guardian of the sport. Pickering was National Coach for Wales and South West England and coached Lynn Davies to a shock victory at the 1964 Olympics. Ron married European long jump champion Jean Desforges who with son, Shaun, now runs the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund.

MARK SHEARMAN



MARY RAND

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

In Tokyo in 1964 she set a long jump world record of 6.76 - the first British female athlete to win an Olympic gold medal as well as taking silver in the Pentathlon and bronze in the 4x 100m. She took the long jump bronze medal at the 1962 European Championships. In 1963 she helped set a world record in the 4x110 yards' relay and posted British records in the 80m hurdles, long jump and pentathlon.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)



ALF SHRUBB

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

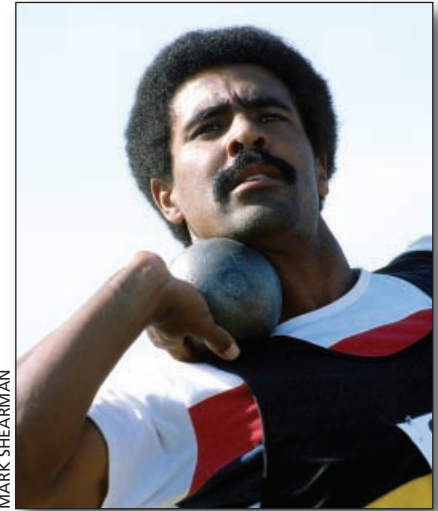
Victories in the new International Cross Country Championships of 1903 and 1904 were supported by supreme achievements on the track in 1903 - world records at 3 miles (14:17.6, British record for 33 years) and 2 miles (9:11.0). His range was extraordinary. He held every amateur world record from 2000m to the hour before he was declared a professional by the AAA in September 1905. He continued to race as a 'pro' for many years in Canada.



NOEL THATCHER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

Accumulated 42 gold medals across his career as a visually impaired athlete. In the Barcelona Paralympics he set a new world record in winning the 1500m. In Atlanta he took the 5k and 10k double, setting a 10k world record despite carrying a stress fracture. In Sydney he broke a world record again - his gun to tape victory saw the 5k record fall. Awarded an MBE for services to disability sport in 1997.



MARK SHEARMAN

DALEY THOMPSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

Twice Olympic gold medallist who won a record breaking 12 decathlons over a six year period. His famously great talent across a range of events was developed through systematic, tough and highly effective training. Daley was known for his mental resolve and ability to master his rivals psychologically as well as physically.



DOROTHY TYLER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

The first British woman to win an Olympic athletics medal; in 1936 she was second in the high jump, aged 16. At 17 she won the Empire Games. She cleared 1.66 for a world record and came close to victory in the 1948 Olympics. In 1950 she retained the Empire Games title and took silver at the 1954 Commonwealth Games. She won the WAAA long jump and pentathlon titles in 1951 (the latter a British record). Later she was a coach and team manager.



SYDNEY WOODERSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

An unlikely looking champion but a 'people's hero' of the 1930s and '40s. In 1937 he set a world mile record of 4:06.4 off scratch in a Surrey handicap race. In 1938 he broke two world records in one race (800m: 1:48.4; 880yds: 1:49.2). In 1946 he was European 5000m champion in 14:08.6 (second fastest ever and a British record). He achieved best in the world at 800m, mile and 5000m, and was English 10 miles cross country champion!



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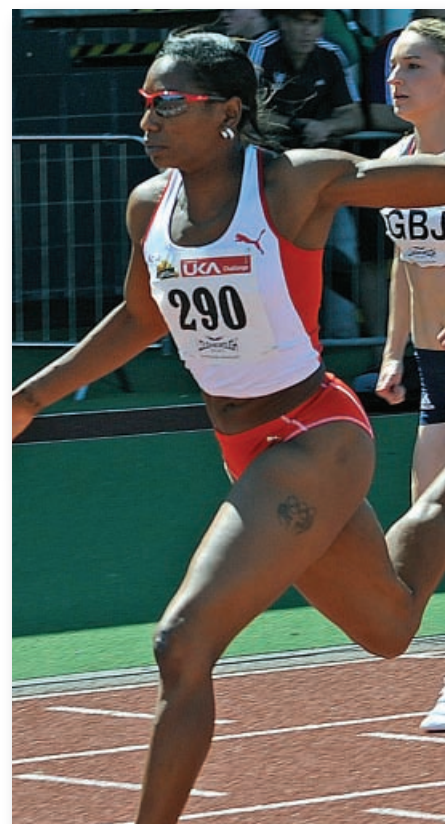
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Athlete profiles © Mel Watman. Additional material Andy Barber.

More detailed profiles of many of those featured can be found in the book *All-Time Greats of British Athletics* by Mel Watman; published by SportsBooks Ltd (www.sportsbooks.ltd.uk)

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