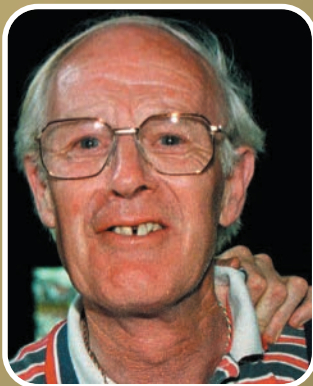


HALL *of* FAME



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2011

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INTRODUCTION

As we stand at the threshold of the historic year of 2012 all eyes are on the stars of our sport. There is great excitement and anticipation as to what the next 12 months will hold.

At this time it is important that we look backwards and recognise our great history as a sport, and we should also look forwards to future generations of athletes. England Athletics' Hall of Fame evening sees us, as a sport, recognising and celebrating the past achievements of our great athletes and those who have changed the face of our sport. Some of these achievements are more distant and others more recent but all have given us the legacy we have today. At times we as a sport have not celebrated and recognised our great successes and heritage in the way we should have done. Our Awards night is an important opportunity for us to do this.

We celebrate our great athletes and those who have shaped our sport on the same evening as our National Volunteer Awards where we recognise those volunteers who are currently serving the sport so faithfully and helping athletics grow its next generation of champions.

The performances of the athletes who are inducted into the England Athletics' Hall of Fame have given us excitement, pleasure and the pride. Those recognised for their wider contribution to athletics have shaped our sport and helped to bring great successes. Together these people have shown our next generation of athletes and volunteers the tremendous possibilities with regards to what can be achieved in athletics.

This Hall of Fame commemorative publication will act as a permanent reminder not just of this evening but of the contribution to athletics made by these people.



John Graves

*Executive Chair
England Athletics*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J Graves'. A long, thin horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.



KATHY COOK

Born: 3.5.1960, Winchester

Clubs: Reading AC, Wolverhampton & Bilston AC

Major medals: **Silver** – 1982 European & Commonwealth 200m, 1986 Commonwealth 200m; **Bronze** – 1983 World 200m, 1984 Olympic 400m, 1986 Commonwealth 400m. **Relay medals include Gold** – 1978, 1982 & 1986 Commonwealth 4x100m; **Silver** – 1983 World 4x100m, 1986 Commonwealth 4x400m; **Bronze** – 1980 & 1984 Olympic 4x100m

World best: 300m – 35.46 in 1984

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



During almost a decade of international sprinting, Kathy Cook (née Smallwood) amassed 23 international championship medals, equalling the most by any English athlete (Linford Christie), and was so far ahead of her time that her British records for 200m (22.10) and 400m (49.43), established at the 1984 Olympics, still stand while her UK 100m record of 11.10 set in 1981 lasted until 2008.

Tall and willowy, she began her athletic life as a high jumper with a best of 1.63m at 15. By that time, though, she was concentrating on the sprints and was being coached at Reading AC by former sprint star Jim Spooner. Her breakthrough came in 1977 when she progressed from 24.46 to 23.22 for a UK junior 200m record. That was the year she commenced her medal collection with three bronzes at the European Junior Championships, and the following season she was a member of England's victorious 4x100m relay team at the Commonwealth Games.

It was in 1979 that she collected her first UK senior record, clocking an altitude assisted 22.70 for 200m in Mexico City. By 1980 she had moved into the upper echelons of world class sprinting, finishing fifth in the Moscow Olympic 200m and sixth in the 100m as well as being a member of the relay team which placed third in 42.43, another UK record which still stands. Shortly after the Games she defeated Olympic bronze medallist Merlene Ottey over 200m, setting a British record of 22.31.

After winning the World Student Games 200m title Kathy was called up as a reserve for the Europe team at the 1981 World Cup ... and produced an astonishing 100m, clocking 11.10 and splitting the world's two fastest women in Evelyn Ashford (USA) and Marlies Göhr (GDR). She ended the season by running her first serious 400m race, improving from 54.3 to 51.08, just 0.20 sec outside the British record. "It was agony," she exclaimed, vowing "never again". Famous last words!

She continued to concentrate on the 200m at the major championships, finishing a close second in 1982 at both the European Championships, where she set a Commonwealth record of 22.13, and the Commonwealth Games, while providing further evidence of her outstanding if reluctant ability at 400m by breaking the Commonwealth record with 50.46. Also that year she married Garry Cook, member of a world record 4x800m relay team who had personal bests of 46.0 for 400m and 1:44.55 for 800m.

More honours followed. She was third at 200m in the inaugural World Championships in 1983 and reached the peak of her career at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 when – admittedly in the absence of the East Europeans – she took the bronze medal in the 400m in 49.43, followed by fourth place in the 200m (just 1/100th away from bronze) in another British record of 22.10.

The son of a middle distance runner with Herne Hill Harriers, Hampson was no great shakes as a teenage half miler, only just bettering 2:10 at the 1926 Public Schools Championships, while in 1929, his final year at Oxford, he was a poor last in the inter-varsity match with a time of outside two minutes. Luckily he came in as a reserve for the Oxford and Cambridge tour of North America that summer for during the trip he blossomed forth with victories in 1:57.6 and 1:56.0.

His new found authority was evident in 1930 and he made a successful AAA Championships debut by winning in the English native record time of 1:53.2. Later that summer he sailed for Canada for the first British Empire Games in Hamilton, where a prodigious finishing sprint carried him to the tape fully 20 yards clear in 1:52.4, the fastest 880 yards time in the world that year.

Hampson's next major target was the 800m at the 1932 Olympics. A feature of his racing strategy that season was his remarkable pace judgement. "I was convinced," he wrote, "having studied some of Professor Hill's researches and knowing the working of the 'oxygen-debt' theory, that the Finnish runners were correct when they maintained that the most economical method of running was to keep as near as possible to an even pace throughout."

Despite the long sea and train journey, Hampson arrived in Los Angeles with fitness intact and at the Games he ran a perfectly planned and executed race. Mind you, his supporters must have been swallowing hard at seeing their man some 20m behind the impetuous leader, Canada's Phil Edwards, at halfway ... but, fifth in 54.8, he was dead on schedule for the 1:50 timing he estimated would be needed for victory.

Shortly after the start of the second lap the English schoolmaster began to pick off the men ahead and he passed the flagging Edwards along the back straight, but the real race was only just beginning, for another Canadian, Alex Wilson, went ahead as the pair reached the final bend. The men were locked in mortal combat all the way to the tape, first one and then the other edging in front, but it was Hampson who prevailed. By a margin of six inches he not only won the gold medal but in the process clocked a barrier-breaking 1:49.70, almost a second inside the listed world record and fully two seconds faster than he had ever run before. His lap times: 54.8 and 54.9! He was hailed by the American world record breaker Ben Eastman as "the greatest middle distance man the world has ever seen".

Another medal, silver, came his way in the 4x400m relay. He then promptly retired although he maintained a keen interest in athletics for the rest of his life (he died at 57). He was among the first ten senior honorary AAA coaches to be appointed and was a press steward at the London Olympics of 1948.



MARK SHEARMAN

TOM HAMPSON

Born: 28.10.1907, Clapham (London); died 4.9.1965

Club: Achilles

Major medals: Gold – 1930 Commonwealth 880y; 1932 Olympic 800m; Silver – 1932 Olympic 4x400m

World record: 800m – 1:49.70 in 1932

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



MARK SHEARMAN

DOROTHY HYMAN

Born: 9.5.1941, Cudworth (Yorkshire)

Club: Hickleton Main SC, Dorothy Hyman Track Club

Major medals: **Gold** – 1962 European 100m; 1962 Commonwealth 100y & 220y; **Silver** – 1960 Olympic 100m, 1962 European 200m; **Bronze** – 1960 Olympic 200m. **Relay medals include Bronze** – 1964 Olympic 4x100m

World Records: 4x110y relay – 45.3 in 1958, 45.2 in 1963

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011

Before she had celebrated her 24th birthday, Dorothy Hyman had become the most bemedalled British athlete up to that time and now, at 70, she still ranks as our most successful female sprinter.

She made her international debut in 1957 aged 16 and the following year she started her medal collection with gold in the 4x110y relay at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff when the English team set a world record of 45.3. In 1959, now coached by Denis Watts, she won the first of four WAAA sprint doubles.

Dorothy excelled herself at the Rome Olympics of 1960. On paper the 19 year-old Yorkshire lass ranked equal seventh over 100m and 11th at 200m, and yet came away with silver in the 100 and bronze in the 200. She won her 100m quarter-final in a UK record equalling 11.6 and then took her semi in 11.5. In the final Wilma Rudolph (USA) was blown by a 2.8m/sec following wind to an astonishing 11.0, with Dorothy timed at 11.3. In the 200m, Dorothy set a British record of 23.7 in her heat and placed third in the final in 24.7 behind Rudolph and Germany's Jutta Heine, the times slowed by unfavourable wind conditions.

Injury caused her to miss almost the entire 1961 season but she returned faster than ever, equalling European records for 100y (10.6) and 200m (23.4). She took the 1962 European 100m title in Belgrade in a wind-aided 11.3 but the weather ruined her chances of a double, for the taller and stronger Heine was better equipped to push through a strong headwind along the straight in the 200m and won, 23.5 to 23.7. She completed a set of medals with bronze in the relay.

However, Dorothy did gain the sprint double at the Commonwealth Games in Perth in November. Her slow 100y time of 11.2 can be explained by a 5.8m/sec headwind (in 37°C heat), and she went on to take the 220y in a British record equalling 23.8 despite a 3m/sec headwind. A silver medal followed in the relay.

In 1963 Dorothy was without doubt the world's number one sprinter. She went unbeaten and topped the world list at 100m with two legal marks of 11.3, equalling the European record and only 0.1 outside Rudolph's world record, and 200m with 23.2 for a new European record. Neither time was bettered by a British athlete for ten years. She also contributed to a world 4x110y relay record of 45.2.

A thigh injury ruined her Tokyo Olympic chances in 1964 although she did come away with a relay bronze. She then retired to concentrate, successfully, on coaching and in 1965 she published an autobiography which transgressed the strict amateur laws and caused her to be barred from international competition when she returned in 1969, winning the WAAA 200m in 23.7. She retired in 1970 and in recognition of her services to the sport both a stadium and an athletics club were named after her.

The four minute smiler', as the immensely popular Yorkshireman was dubbed, followed Walter George, Sydney Wooderson and Roger Bannister and preceded Seb Coe, Steve Ovett and Steve Cram as a British world mile record holder – and has now joined that illustrious company in the England Athletics Hall of Fame.

That 'Ibbo' would develop into a great miler was not obvious during the early stages of his career for it was as a cross country and distance runner that he first made his mark, and in 1954 – the year of Bannister's first sub-four minute mile – his best mile time, aged 22, was no faster than 4:19.2. He did progress to 4:08.8 the following year when he won the inter-county 3 miles in 13:34.6 and two days later finished third in the 6 miles in 28:52.0, both world class times. Further evidence of his outstanding stamina came at the 1956 English cross country championship in which he finished third.

On the track in 1956 he continued to make fine progress, defeating Chris Chataway by inches for the AAA 3 miles title, but – seemingly out of the blue – he became the world's ninth and Britain's fourth sub-four minute miler later that season. Entering the prestigious Emsley Carr Mile at the White City merely because he needed an extra ticket for the post-meeting banquet, he created a sensation by winning in 3:59.4. His previous best was 4:07.0! Admittedly not at his fittest for that race, Ireland's Ron Delany – destined to become Olympic 1500m champion later in the year – finished a distant third and Ibbotson fancied his chances in the Melbourne 1500m. However, he was selected only for the 5000m at the Games, where he ran well to gain the bronze medal behind Vladimir Kuts (USSR) and Gordon Pirie in his fastest time of 13:54.4.

By 1957 he was one of the sport's favourite figures with the fans delighting in his jaunty, swashbuckling manner of running and his infectious sense of fun, and that summer his popularity reached new heights. Racing in Glasgow, he celebrated the birth of his first child by setting a European mile record of 3:58.4, while at the AAA Championships he retained the 3 miles title with a British record of 13:20.8. Six days later, on the same White City track, he not only defeated a dazzling international field but his finishing drive over the final 300 yards carried him through the tape with the stopwatches registering a fabulous 3:57.2, breaking the record of 3:57.9 by Australia's John Landy. He also set a British best of 3:41.9 for 1500m en route. Runner-up, in an Irish record of 3:58.8, was Delany. Ibbotson's lap times were 56.0, 60.4, 63.9 and 56.9 and Bannister was of the opinion that in a more evenly paced race Ibbotson was capable of running 3:55.

However, although he never again broke four minutes after 1957, 'Ibbo' likes to claim – with a grin on his face – that he, not Bannister, was the first four minute miler. It's true ... up to a point. In a race at the White City in 1958, won by Australia's Herb Elliott, Ibbotson finished fourth in four minutes dead, the first such clocking!



DEREK IBBOTSON

Born: 17.6.1932, Berry Brow, near Huddersfield

Club: Longwood H, South London H

Major medals: Bronze – 1956 Olympic 5000m

World Records: Mile – 3:57.2 in 1957; 4x1 Mile Relay – 16:30.6 in 1958

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



MARK SHEARMAN

DENISE LEWIS

Born: 27.8.1972, West Bromwich

Clubs: Wolverhampton & Bilston AC, Birchfield H

Major medals: (At Heptathlon) **Gold** – 1994 Commonwealth; 1998 European; 1998 Commonwealth; 2000 Olympics; **Silver** – 1997 World; 1999 World; **Bronze** – 1996 Olympics

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



Although she was never a world record breaking all-rounder like Daley Thompson or Mary Peters, Denise Lewis thoroughly deserved her heptathlon gold medal in Sydney in 2000 as she struggled bravely against injuries which came so close to shattering her Olympic dream. Her career was one of long-term consistency at the highest level.

Denise was only nine when she joined the local Wolverhampton & Bilston club. Honours came early, at 13 winning the 1986 English Schools Junior Girls long jump. At 15 she joined Birchfield and began to be coached by Darrell Bunn, the man who would steer her to top world class.

It was in 1988, just turned 16, that she entered her first heptathlon. It was the Midland Championship, she won and had found her forte. Injuries held her back for a time but in 1994 she made a breakthrough at the Commonwealth Games, not only winning but improving her best score from 6069 to 6325. It was the javelin which made all the difference. With a previous best of 48.58 she couldn't believe it when the spear touched down at a colossal 53.68!

In 1996 she joined the world elite, setting a British record of 6645 in Götzis. The statuesque Syrian, Ghada Shouaa, captured the Olympic title in Atlanta while Denise was so despondent after a modest long jump which left her in eighth place overall that she was tempted to drop out. However, a timely personal best of 54.82 with the javelin moved her all the way up to third and she clung on to the bronze medal with 6489.

She continued to improve in 1997, setting a Commonwealth record of 6736 in Götzis and claiming a silver medal (6654) in the World Championships. Now coached by Charles van Commenee, she became the world's number one in 1998, winning both of the year's major titles: European with 6559 and Commonwealth with 6513. A calf injury early in 1999 severely hampered her preparation for the World Championships but she recovered in time to score 6724 for second place.

The year ended in surgery for Denise; she was on crutches for four weeks and had ten weeks of rehabilitation. Nevertheless she scored a Commonwealth record 6831 in Talence, indicating she was in great shape as the 2000 Olympics approached. However, just seven weeks before the Games she injured her left Achilles tendon and was only able to start running again ten days before leaving for Sydney. Only eighth after the second event, the high jump, she moved to third after the shot and second after the long jump ... but was in such pain she could hardly walk. Thanks to the javelin she took the lead before the 800m and toughed it out to win with 6584.

Denise, now the mother of three, subsequently became even better known to the general public when she became a star of *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2004, and today is part of the BBC TV's athletics presentation team.

To coach one athlete to an Olympic title and world record is a monumental achievement, but in Bruce Longden's case he guided two of Britain's greatest ever athletes to the ultimate distinction in the sport.

A graduate of Loughborough College (now Loughborough University), he was at first a teacher before spending four years as Deputy Director and Recreation Director at the International School in Geneva. He returned to Britain in 1973 to become Recreation Director at Crawley College of Technology.

It was in 1976, a year before being appointed a BAAB National Coach, that he began coaching a precocious all-rounder by the name of Daley Thompson. That year Thompson improved his UK junior decathlon record from 6941 to an astonishing 7748. He made the Olympic team and in Montreal, where he celebrated his 18th birthday, he impressed the American winner and world record breaker Bruce Jenner to such an extent that he nominated Daley as his likely successor. He proved to be correct.

Over those next four years Thompson gradually approached, and then surpassed, Jenner's score of 8634. In 1977 he set world junior records of 8056 and 8082; in 1978, a few days after his 20th birthday, he scored 8470 (but with a long jump over the permitted wind limit) to lift the Commonwealth title; and in 1980 he set his first world record of 8648 prior to becoming Olympic champion in Moscow. Over a six-year period he achieved a momentous decathlon win streak of 12, winning Commonwealth and European titles in 1982, becoming inaugural world champion in 1983, defending his Olympic laurels in 1984 (with a world record 8847) and retaining the Commonwealth and European championships in 1986.

Longden continued as a BAAB National Coach, as well as being Chief Coach to England teams, until 1984 when he accepted a four-year appointment as Head Coach for the Norwegian Athletic Federation. Meanwhile, he was coaching another athlete who would hit the heights in Sally Gunnell. Initially an English Schools long jump champion, she too developed her all-round ability to set British age-16 and 17 heptathlon bests. Thereafter she concentrated on the 100m hurdles, to such good effect that in 1986 she won the Commonwealth title. However, although she would eventually succeed Shirley Strong as British record holder with 12.82 Longden realised Sally would never be a world beater at that event and encouraged her to try the 400m hurdles. In her first serious season, 1988, she set a UK record of 54.03 for fifth in the Olympics and by 1992 she was ready to take on the world, capturing the Olympic title in 53.23, and the following year she won the world title in a world record 52.74.

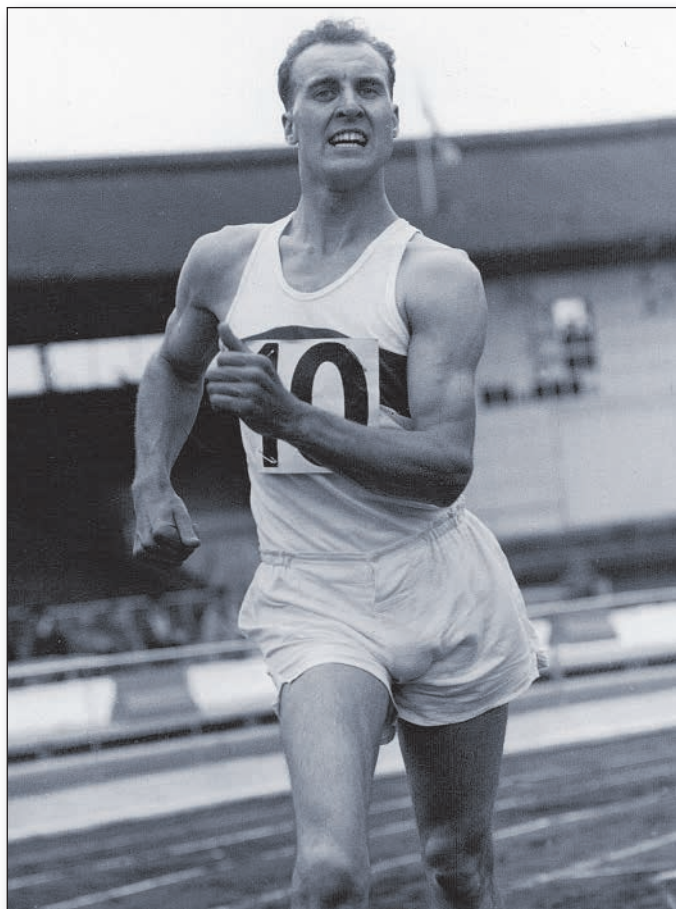
Bruce had returned to Britain to serve as a BAF National Coach from 1991 to 1997, his specialist areas being the combined events, hurdles and jumps, and these days he and his wife Julie – herself a coach – divide their time between France and South Africa.



BRUCE LONGDEN

Born: 6.8.1939, Sheffield

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



KEN MATTHEWS

Born: 21.6.1934, Birmingham

Clubs: Royal Sutton Coldfield Walking Club

Major medals: Gold – 1962 European & 1964 Olympic 20km Walk

World Records: (unofficial) 5 Miles Walk – 34:26.6 in 1959, 34:21.2 in 1960; 10 Miles Walk – 69:40.6 in 1964

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011

British walkers have been responsible for many international triumphs, but none has been quite as successful as Ken Matthews. He won four of his five major international tests at 20 kilometres: the European title in 1962, the first two finals of the Lugano Trophy in 1961 and 1963 where he led Britain to victory in what was in effect the world team championship each time, and the coveted Olympic gold medal in Tokyo in 1964. The only blot on his record came at the 1960 Rome Olympics. There he fell victim to a combination of the after effects of 'flu, his own ruthless pace and the searing heat, the result being that he collapsed and was taken to hospital.

He began his walking career at 18, following in the footsteps of his father Joe, a founder member of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Walking Club and himself a long distance walking participant. It was Joe who coached his son, later on with help from 1936 Olympic 50 kilometres walk champion Harold Whitlock, himself an inductee this year into the Hall of Fame.

Not only did he capture the first of 17 national titles in 1959 but that year he set an unofficial world record of 34:26.6 for 5 miles, a time he reduced to 34:21.2 the following season. Apart from his Olympic misadventure 1960 was a notable year for him as he also produced British records at 10,000m (42:35.6), 7 miles (48:53.0), one hour (13,805m) and 20 kilometres (1:28:15). Such was his versatility that between 1964 and 1971 he held every British record from 5 miles to two hours, including a world best of 69:40.6 for 10 miles in 1964.

The glorious peak of his career came in Tokyo where he decimated the best the world could offer to win the Olympic 20 kilometres title by a huge margin in the Olympic record time of 1:29:34. Matthews had sometimes been criticised for his extravagant speed in the early stages of his races, but on this occasion his judgement was flawless. He took the lead just before the 5 kilometres mark, was 24 seconds clear at halfway, 53 seconds ahead at 15 kilometres and had built up an advantage of no less than 1 minute and 40 seconds by the finish. The 5 kilometre splits were 22:19, 22:04, 22:29 and 22:42 ... marvellously controlled speed walking.

That walkers were still unfairly regarded as second class citizens in the world of athletics became apparent when Britain's other three gold medallists from Tokyo – Lynn Davies, Mary Rand and Ann Packer – very quickly featured in the Queen's Honours List and it wasn't until 13 years later that, following a campaign organised by the Race Walking Association, Matthews at last received his richly deserved MBE. Now his great achievements have been recognised by the British athletics public voting him into the Hall of Fame.

Like Bruce Longden, Sam Mussabini coached two individual British Olympic champions. In his case they were Albert Hill, who completed the 800m/1500m double at the Antwerp Olympics of 1920, and – more famously thanks to *Chariots of Fire* – Harold Abrahams, the 1924 100m champion in Paris. But many years earlier, Mussabini had guided another athlete to Olympic glory ... South Africa's Reggie Walker, the 1908 100m champion in London.

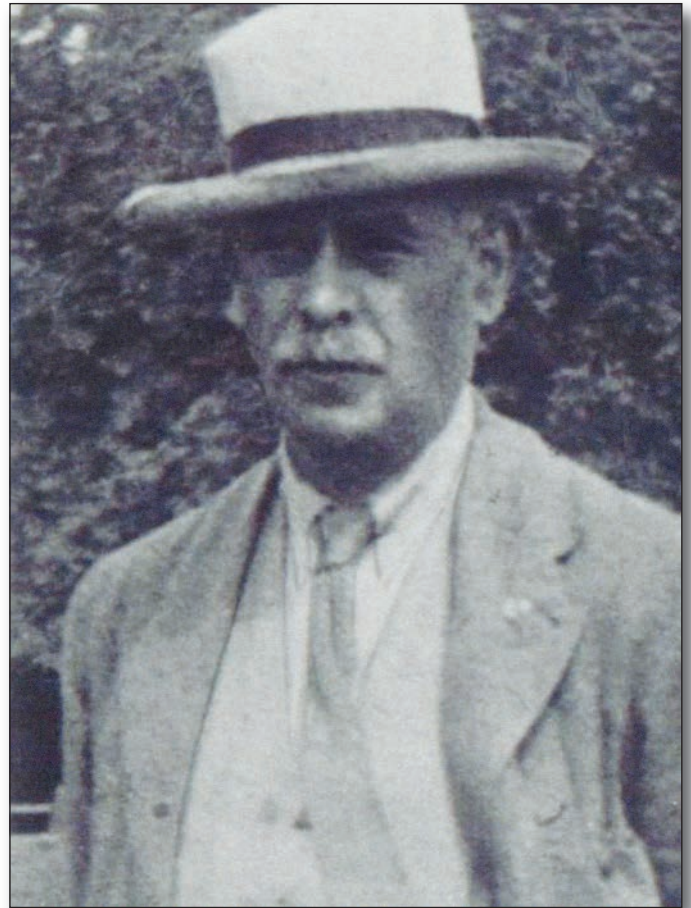
Scipio Africanus (Sam) Mussabini may have had an exotic mixture of Arab, Turkish, Italian and French ancestry but he was born in London and spent his life in Britain. He was a professional sprinter prior to coaching Bert Harris to the first professional cycling championship in 1894. Another sport in which he was expert was billiards. Not only was he a top player but he became joint proprietor and editor of a billiards magazine, and wrote a two-volume book on the game.

Reggie Walker was his first great success as an athletics coach. The 19 year-old arrived in London a month before the Games and finished a yard behind Canada's Bobby Kerr (10.0) in the AAA 100 yards championship. An interested spectator was Mussabini, who offered to help improve his poor start. His advice, together with organising Walker's training and diet in the lead-up to the Games, made a huge difference and the South African won the gold medal in an Olympic record equalling 10.8.

Mussabini's next great sprinter was Willie Applegarth, who at the 1912 Olympics was a member of Britain's victorious 4x100m relay team and bronze medallist at 200m. Applegarth, a member of Polytechnic Harriers (for whom Sam was professional coach from 1912 until his death 15 years later), reached new heights at the 1914 AAA Championships when he clocked a stunning 21.2 for 220 yards which stood as the world record around a turn until 1932 and as the UK best until 1958!

Applegarth being his boyhood hero, Harold Abrahams prudently engaged Sam as his trainer as he prepared for the 1924 Olympics. It proved an inspired move as Abrahams, an outsider for a medal, improved by the two yards Sam had promised to take the title in an Olympic record equalling 10.6. "Our partnership was ideal, because Sam was not an autocrat," Abrahams wrote. "We discussed theory for many hours and argued and argued until I knew that his theories were sound – not because of his experience and knowledge, but because my mind was satisfied with his reasons."

At the previous Games, in 1920, Albert Hill gained a double that was not emulated until Peter Snell in 1964 while Harry Edward took bronze medals in the 100m and 200m. A year after Sam's death yet another of his protégés, Jack London, kept his memory alive by finishing second in the 1928 Olympic 100m. Unorthodox his methods may have been, but Sam was a great innovator as well as motivator, and his record speaks for itself.



SAM MUSSABINI

Born: 11.3.1867, London; died 23.3.1927

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011

MARK SHEARMAN



JEAN PICKERING

Born: 4.7.1929, Forest Gate (London)

Clubs: Essex Ladies

Major medals: Gold – 1950 European 4x100m; 1954 European long jump; Bronze – 1952 Olympic 4x100m; 1954 Commonwealth 80m hurdles & long jump

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



Jean Desforges, as she was, made her international debut in 1947 as an 18 year-old 80m hurdler and subsequently represented Britain also in the long jump and 4x100m relay ... even, on one occasion, persuaded to throw the discus! She enjoyed a highly successful career, winning on 19 occasions when wearing the British colours. The first victory came in 1947, the last in 1954.

Five international championship medals came her way. At the 1950 European Championships in Brussels she won gold in the 4x100m relay, inches ahead of a Dutch team anchored by the fabulous Fanny Blankers-Koen; at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki she took a relay bronze; further bronze medals in both the hurdles and long jump were gained at the 1954 British Empire Games in Vancouver; while later that season in Bern she became European long jump champion with a leap of 6.04m – close to her 1953 UK record of 6.10m when she became the first British woman to jump over 20 feet.

Although she did come away with that relay medal she was unlucky at the 1952 Olympics in the 80m hurdles. After clocking a sensational if wind-aided 10.9 in her semi-final (the British record stood at 11.2) she was looming as a medal prospect but in the final she was hampered by an ill Fanny Blankers-Koen in the adjoining lane. The Dutchwoman smashed into the first two barriers and failed to finish, leaving Australia's Shirley Strickland to win the title in a legal, world record breaking 10.9, with a distracted Jean fifth in 11.6.

As well as her long jumping exploits, Jean also set a British record of 3997 points for the pentathlon in 1953 and her hurdles best of 11.1 in 1954 was just a tenth outside the UK record. Coached primarily by Franz Stampfl, she won a total of eight WAAA titles in the hurdles, long jump and pentathlon.

In October 1954 Jean married Ron Pickering, who would later win acclaim for coaching Lynn Davies to the 1964 Olympic long jump title and become a much admired BBC television commentator as well as representing the conscience of the sport with his campaigning against performance enhancing drugs.

Since her husband's premature death in 1991 Jean has made an enormous contribution to British athletics by setting up and administering the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund, which has distributed over a million pounds to help young athletes. She is also closely involved with Sportshall Athletics, started by George Bunner in 1977, and is president (as was Ron) of a movement which has done so much to bring youngsters into the sport. Jean was awarded the MBE in 2010 for her services to athletics.

Their son Shaun Pickering developed into one of Britain's foremost shot putters (best of 20.45m in 1997), 1998 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist and a successful throws event coach in his own right. He and Jean are the only son/mother combination in athletics to have become British Olympians and at 82 – despite several health problems – Jean continues her invaluable work.

Donna Hartley, Todd Bennett, Roger Black, Kriss Akabusi, Iwan Thomas. What did they have in common other than all being outstanding 400m runners? They were all coached either throughout or for a significant part of their careers by the man considered the guru of one-lap running, Mike Smith.

Still very active after more than 50 years as a coach of the highest order, he has often been honoured for his work. For instance, he was named England's coach of the year in 1987; in 1998 he was awarded the Ron Pickering Memorial Award by the British Athletics Writers' Association for his special contribution to the sport, and more recently in 2009 he received an award from England Athletics for his lifetime of service to coaching.

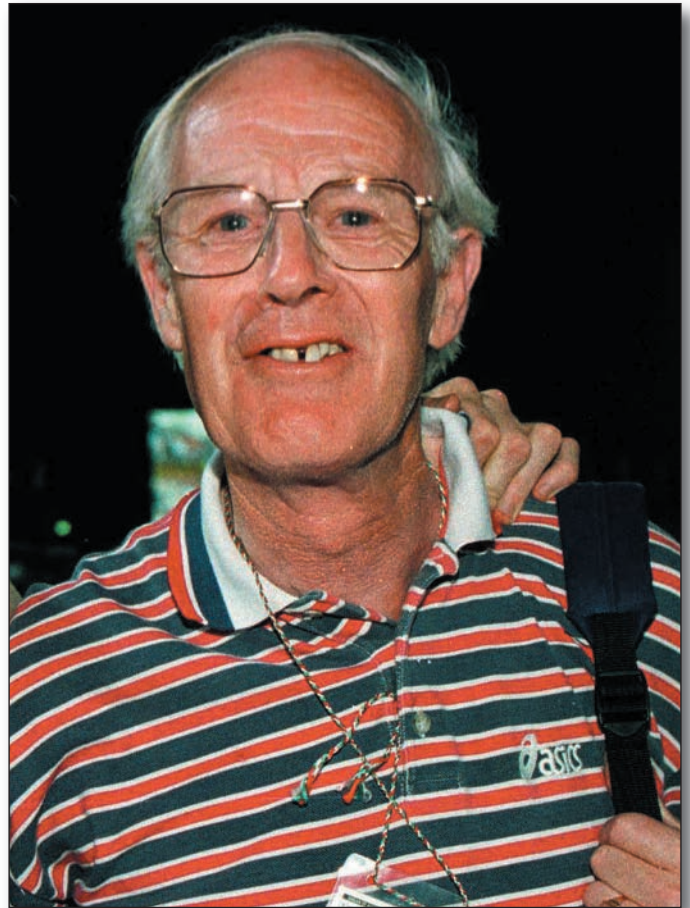
A testimonial on the England Athletics website sums up what Mike Smith has brought to athletics. "For over 50 years Mike has dedicated himself to helping athletes, while passing on his love of athletics. He is one of the most experienced and accomplished 400m coaches in Europe if not the world. His success is certainly not down to luck or fluke. It's his undying commitment, wealth of knowledge, experience and ability to bring the best out of people which has benefited so many over the years to fulfil their potential."

A senior master at a Southampton comprehensive until he took early retirement to concentrate on coaching, writing and radio broadcasting, Smith has held numerous positions in the sport, including being secretary of the Southern Counties AA Coaching Committee, national 400m co-ordinator for UKA and chairman of Team Southampton after nearly 30 years as secretary, chairman or president of Southampton & Eastleigh AC.

He was himself a club level competitor as a sprinter and jumper with Trowbridge and Thames Valley Harriers, won county titles and represented Wiltshire, but rheumatism caused him to give up active participation and switch instead to coaching. His first real success was with David Dear, who made the 1972 Olympic sprint relay team, but it was Donna Hartley (née Murray) who made his reputation.

Coached by Smith since she was 14, she became one of the 'golden girls' of British athletics, setting UK records at 200m (22.75) and 400m (51.28) and becoming Commonwealth 400m champion in 1978. Interviewed in Athletics Weekly in 1976, Donna paid this tribute to her coach: "He knows me better than I know myself! He knows just how to get that something extra out of me by psyching me up for a big race; and I'd go out and train my guts out for him whenever it's necessary. I'd be nowhere without him; and so what he says, goes."

One of Smith's most remarkable coaching successes was Todd Bennett. He was a schoolboy steeplechaser when he joined Southampton & Eastleigh AC but Smith quickly realised he was not cut out for middle distance training but had speed and so moved him into his sprints/400m training group. Not only did Bennett develop into the world indoor 400m record holder in 1985 but he also ran 200m in 20.36, a level of blazing speed that none of our 400m specialists before or since has ever matched.



MIKE SMITH

Born: 4.1.1929, Stone, Buckinghamshire

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011



No one in the history of British race walking made such a significant and diverse contribution to that segment of our sport than Harold Whitlock ... as competitor, coach, judge and official.

Whitlock's career was as long as it was distinguished. He first came into prominence in 1931 with second place in the national 50 kilometres championship and it was not until 1952 (aged 48!) that he bowed out as an international, placing eleventh in the Helsinki Olympics. Between 1933 and 1939 he won the national 50 kilometres title on six occasions with a fastest time of 4:30:38 in 1936. Other honours included a world 30 miles track record of 4:29:31.8 at the White City in 1935 en route to 50 miles (200 laps of the track!) in 7:44:47.2 and the distinction that same year of being the first to walk the 52 miles from London to Brighton in under eight hours, his time of 7:53:50 standing as the record until 1956. This magnificent and always scrupulously fair competitor also won the 1938 European 50 kilometres title in 4:41:51.

The crowning glory of his career came when he succeeded fellow Briton Tommy Green as Olympic 50 kilometres champion at Berlin in 1936. Only ninth after 20 kilometres, he moved into third place by the halfway mark, second position at 30 kilometres and took the lead just before 35 kilometres. A severe case of sickness at 38 kilometres, resulting from drinking a cup of tea, caused Whitlock's lead to shrink but he recovered well to finish almost one and a half minutes clear of Switzerland's Arthur Schwab in 4:30:42.

Whitlock described the race: "Last out of the stadium, I began to get through the field by the quarter distance until just after the turn I was third to Jaroslav Stork (Czechoslovakia) and Janis Dalins of Latvia. In another five kilometres Dalins was alongside and sensing his weakness I drove him hard for another five kilometres before going ahead. Victory seemed in sight, but a bout of sickness caused me some concern with the added knowledge that Schwab was closing my lead. Fortunately my recovery soon afterwards allowed me to increase my advantage again, to arrive in the stadium a tired but very proud man, having accomplished what I set out to do three years before – win an Olympic title."

All the long hours of training and competition came during his time off work as a racing car mechanic based at the famous Brooklands circuit. As a coach (he advised Don Thompson, the 1960 Olympic 50 kilometres champion, wrote the BAAB instructional booklet on race walking in 1957, and became National Walking Coach), judge (he was Chief Judge at the Rome Olympics) and official (he was Chairman of the IAAF Walk Commission for many years and President of the Race Walking Association in 1955/56) he remained a prominent and respected figure in race walking circles for the rest of his life. He died aged 82.

HAROLD WHITLOCK

Born: 16.12.1903, Hendon (Middlesex); died 27.12.1985

Clubs: Metropolitan Walking Club

Major medals: Gold – 1936 Olympic 50km Walk; 1938 European 50km Walk

World Record: 30 Miles Track Walk – 4:29:31.8 in 1935

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2011

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES



HAROLD ABRAHAM

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

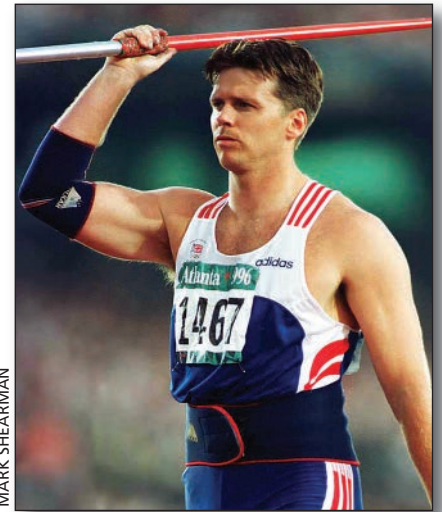
Immortalised in Chariots of Fire as Europe and England's first Olympic 100m champion he was also an athletics journalist, historian and statistician, radio commentator, leading administrator and official. He was an influential member of the IAAF, co-founder of the Association of Track & Field Statisticians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



MALCOLM ARNOLD

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

A distinguished coaching career has seen him guide five 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.



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.



SIR ROGER BANNISTER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

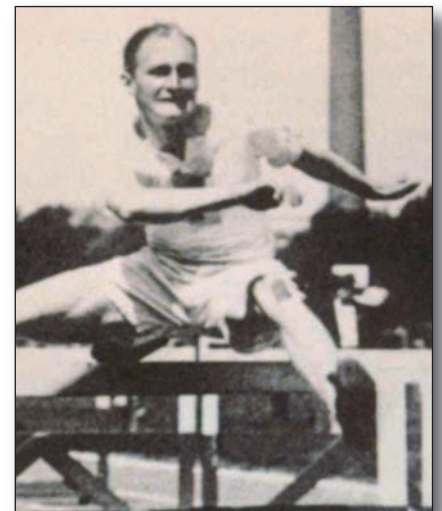
For many people the most historic moment in sport is when Sir Roger ran 3:59.4 to clock the first ever 4min mile at Iffley Road Track, Oxford, in May 1954. But it was not only the clock he could conquer. He went head-to-head with arch-rival and fellow sub-4 runner John Landy in the Empire Games and won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



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 BURGHLEY

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



LINFORD CHRISTIE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

Linford Christie was the 1992 Olympic 100m gold medallist and 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 (at the time just 1/100th outside Carl Lewis's world record), captured several European and Commonwealth titles and was consistently at the highest world level over a lengthy career.

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 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. Now part of the BBC commentary team.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)

MARK SHEARMAN



BRENDAN FOSTER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

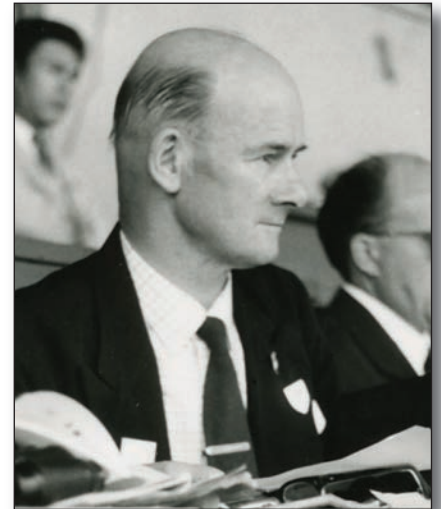
'Big Bren' achieved his titles and records over a range of distances. His 3000m world record of 7:35.1 came at the opening of Gateshead's track in 1974 – the same year as his bold European 5000m title. The previous year he'd run 8:13.68, a WR for two miles. In 1978 he took Commonwealth gold at 10,000m to add to his medals at 1500m (1970) and 5,000 (1974 & 1978). He took Olympic bronze at 10,000m in 1976.



WALTER GEORGE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

An array of world records at 1000 yards to 1hr included records at 2M, 3M, 4M, 6M, 10,000m, 10M, hour and an amateur record at the mile all set in 1884. In 1886, aged 27, he ran a world record 4:12 ¾ for a mile. He would be 76 before a Briton ran faster! George was a pioneer of innovative training methods. The great Gosta Holmer said he based his 'fartlek' on the methods of WG George!



P W 'JIMMY' GREEN

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

Jimmy Green is best known as the man who launched Athletics Weekly. He worked hard, made sacrifices and showed great insight to turn the title into the sport's essential source of news and results, as well as a major forum for discussion of the sport. He was also an athlete who represented the AAA, one of the country's best Starters, President of Kent AAA and one of the very first Senior Coaches.

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.

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.



ALBERT HILL

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

Albert Hill achieved the 800m/1500m double at the 1920 Olympics (adding a silver in the 3000m team race). He was a chain smoking railway ticket collector who trained twice a week. He initially excelled at longer distances including winning the AAA 4M title in 1910. A great tactician and bold racer Hill later turned his hand to coaching, his protégés included mile world record holder Sydney Wooderson.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)



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

DAME KELLY HOLMES

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

Dame Kelly won her historic 800m/1500m double at the 2004 Olympic Games. After a break from the sport to focus on her military career her return to the sport was highly successful with Commonwealth titles, plus medals at the Olympics as well as the European and World Championship. But a string of injuries begged the question 'What if...?' In Athens an uninterrupted preparation led to an emphatic answer.



JOHN LE MASURIER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

John 'Le Mas's diversity of knowledge of training and technique saw him work with sprinters, middle distance and cross country runners, hurdlers, jumpers, throwers and all-rounders. His crowning glory was Mary Rand. At the 1964 Tokyo Olympics she won the long jump with a world record 6.76m, took silver in the pentathlon and third in the 4x100m relay. He was joint AAA Principal National Coaches from 1961-1978.



MARK SHEARMAN

STEVE OVETT

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

Always regarded as the 'athlete's athlete' Steve Ovett 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.

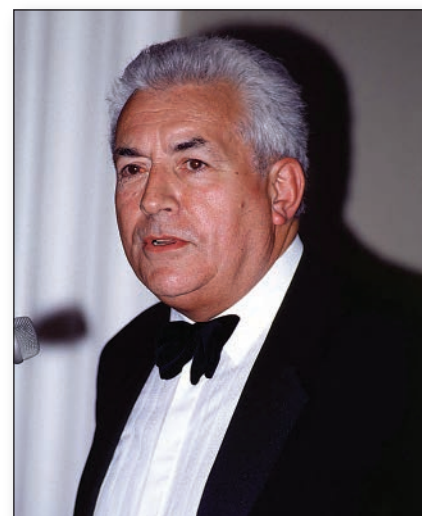


MARK SHEARMAN

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.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)

MARK SHEARMAN



PAULA RADCLIFFE

Athlete of the Decade 2001-2010

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

In 1992 Paula Radcliffe became World Junior cross country champion ahead of China's Wang Junxia (who the following year set seemingly unreal world record times at 3000m and 10,000m).

Paula's uncompromising front running went on to carry her to medals and records galore, including world bests on the road. But she was repeatedly outsprinted for gold at the end of her most important track and cross country races.

From 2000 things changed. She captured the World Half Marathon title and in 2001 won the World Cross Country.

After retaining her World Cross Country title in 2002 she made her marathon debut in London. Her 2:18:56 was a world record for a women-only race and second fastest ever. She went on to set a Commonwealth 3000m record of 8:22.22 and win the Commonwealth Games (Commonwealth record of 14:31.42) and European Championships (European record of 30:01.09). She ended the year with a world record 2:17:18 in Chicago. In April 2003 she wowed the world of athletics even more with her stunning 2:15:25 in London - the biggest single improvement in the world record for 20 years!

Other triumphs followed, including a third London win and the World title in 2005 (the first British marathoner to win a global championship), and three New York victories between 2004 and 2008.

MARK SHEARMAN



MARY RAND

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

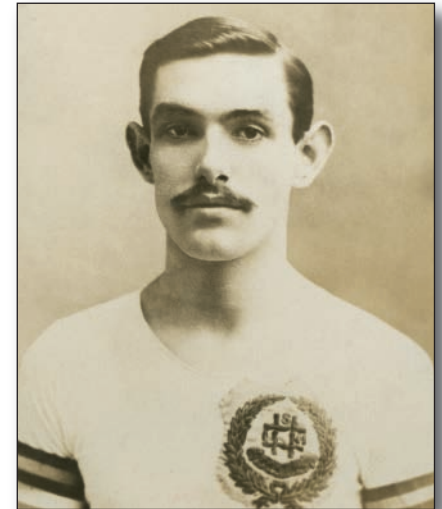
In Tokyo in 1964 she set a long jump world record of 6.76 - the first British female athlete to win an Olympic gold medal as well as taking silver in the Pentathlon and bronze in the 4x 100m. She took the long jump bronze medal at the 1962 European Championships. In 1963 she helped set a world record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



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.

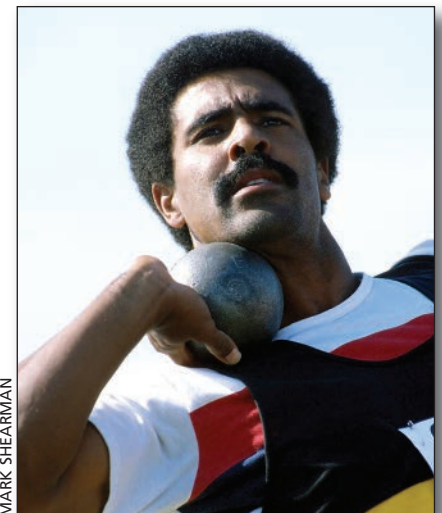


ALF SHRUBB

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.

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.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES (CONTINUED)



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.



DENIS WATTS

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

Denis Watts was the first man to win the long/triple jump double at the AAA Championships (946). He was Principal National Coach until 1978. He coached Dorothy Hyman to Olympic silver (100m) and bronze (200m) in 1960 and as well as to European and Commonwealth titles and European records. He coached Tom Farrell (400m hurdles) and Andy Carter (800m) to British records. Watts helped in the development of Lillian Board, including persuading her to move up from 200m before her eventual Olympic 800m gold.



MARK SHEARMAN

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!

THE HISTORY OF THE RUNNING SPIKE

The Hall of Fame is proud to present the oldest known pair of running spikes, owned by Earl Spencer dating from c.1860. They are on loan from the Northampton Museum. Spiked shoes for running were first developed in 1852, and by the 1860s English spikes had become popular the world round. An American athlete wrote: "So everybody wished for a pair; everybody coveted this pair; everybody envied their fortunate possessor, and everybody wished to borrow them."

SPENCER SPIKES & RUNNING REVOLUTION

John Poyntz the Fifth Earl Spencer (1857-1910, and the Great Grand Uncle of Diana Princess of Wales) was known for his preoccupation with field sports and politics, as well introducing barbed wire to the UK. He was nicknamed the 'Red Earl' after his distinctive long red beard. Until 1856, the Spencer Family owned much of Wimbledon including Park House and the 'heath'. In 1864, at the time of the shoes on display, Earl Spencer attempted to enclose part of the land and sell some for building. A parliamentary enquiry followed and in 1871 the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act opened up the land to the general public for informal recreational use. The Common became home to the world's oldest cross country club, Thames Hare & Hounds, founded

in 1868, and the inaugural paper trail race in 1870 versus the 'Gentleman of Hampstead'. These matches continued against rival harrier clubs until paper trails were banned on the Common in 1879. This pre-dates the birth of the AAAs in 1880 and the English Cross Country Association in 1883.

Soon after the preservation of the heath at Wimbledon, the Spencer Club was founded in 1872 with the formation of Spencer Cricket Club. Local people had protested about the same encroachment that had threatened Wimbledon, and as Lord of the Manor the Fifth Earl gave permission to drain and enclose part of Wandsworth Common in return for an annuity of £250, excluding an area that became Spencer Park. Today the Club is now 500 members strong with the additions of hockey, tennis, squash and, more recently, lacrosse.

THE BRITISH SHOE INDUSTRY

The Spencer Spikes join an extensive collection of shoes by Job King who grew up in the famous Northamptonshire cobbler and sporting village of Long Buckby. Job's hoarding began aged 15 when he found an old pair of 'nailed' Adidas spikes at a scout jumble sale, and has now grown to over 200 shoes. This includes various innovative lace-less designs from early patented 1930s shoes, the introduction of

*Earl Spencer's
running spikes,
c.1860*



1936—If you want to be successful this Season, wear
FOSTER'S FAMOUS SHOES,
 As used by **ALL CHAMPIONS.**

Worn by the International Cross-Country Champion, 1933, 1934, 1935, and successful athletes in the Olympic Games since 1908.



Running, Cycling, Road Walking, Jumping, Cross-Country, Road Racing Shoes, Boxing, Soccer and Rugby Boots.

Hand-Made throughout.
 Write for Price List and Self-Measurement Form to—
J. W. FOSTER & SONS, Olympic Works, Deane Rd., Bolton, Lancs.

Advert for Foster's running shoes, 1936

Velcro by Puma in the late 1960s, to more recent Disc and Pump incarnations.

Along with the birth of organised sport, England led the world in shoe production. The first sports shoe company, JW Foster, began in 1890 when young Joe Foster from Bolton visited his grandfather Sam, a famous sports cobbler in Nottingham. As a keen athlete, Joe worked out that his shoes could give him an advantage on the track, and spent a year stripping weight from the shoes and refining the design. After his grandfather died, Joe returned north with Sam's tools to the back yard of his dad's refectory shop in Bolton and by 1898 had perfected his 'Running Pump' with a set of six inch-long spikes beneath the forefoot of each shoe. Alf Shrubbs made the shoes super-famous in 1904, when smashing three world records at Ibrox and, by 1910, Foster's had moved into its own premises further down the road at the 'Olympic Works'.


Special styles were devised by Foster for cross country and field events with straps and heels added. After the war, further success came in 1924 when 'Chariots of Fire' Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell went head-to-head in Foster's Pumps. Joe died suddenly in 1933, with the business passing on to sons Billy and James who branched to rugby and football boots, gracing the feet of Manchester United, Liverpool, Newcastle and Bolton Wanderers. However, family tensions began in the 1950s when Adidas and Puma emerged with modern and cheaper German manufacturing techniques. The business and family split with the younger half forming Reebok in 1958, which would become a world success by the 1980s, while the Olympic Works had folded by 1960 and made way for a new college.

THE 'ROLLS ROYCE' OF RUNNING SHOES


A similar pattern to Foster's birth and decline followed with the 'Rolls Royce' of running shoes. In the early 1900s, Mr GT Law, an accomplished athlete, being dissatisfied with the running shoes available,

10 **ACTON & Co., Sports Outfitters, THE ARCADE, ALDERSHOT**

Cross-Country and Track Running Shoes




No. 149 Running Pumps, hand-sewn, reliable quality.
 No. 150 Running Pumps, hand-sewn, steel plated, with patent immovable spikes.
 No. 151 The "Swift Secure," with lace round ankle, steel plated.
 No. 152 Box Calf, very light, best steel spikes.



No. 154 Running Pumps, for cross-country, hurdling, etc.
 Made on special lasts, and cut to fit closely to the foot, thus excluding all dirt and grit. Steel plated.

Canvas Shoes



No. 153 Law's Track Shoe, Box Calf, hand-sewn. Made to measure only. Forms on application.

No. 155 Grey Canvas Plimsoll, Pyramid sole.
 No. 156 White Canvas Plimsoll, Pyramid sole.
 No. 157 Grey Canvas Plimsoll, grooved sole.
 No. 158 Ditto, heavy grooved sole, leather insole (hygienic).
 No. 159 Red Raven, white canvas, heavy sole.
 Special Quotations for large quantities.

No. 160 RUNNING CORKS, fitted with elastic.
 No. 161 RUNNING TOE SOCKS, chamois.

Early twentieth century advert from Acton & Co, Aldershot, featuring Law's Track Shoe

decided to make his own. With interest from friends he was persuaded to set up a workshop 'GT Law & Sons' in Wimbledon. Running shoes, road walking shoes and rugby boots were produced here until the area was bombed in 1940. GT Law moved to Towcester, Northamptonshire, into a workshop at the rear of a house on Watling Street, whilst his son CW Law continued in London. Production of running shoes had stopped by 1970, joining the extinct list of Simlam, Pocock, Winit, Pentagon and Kingswell.

Roger Bannister wore GT Law shoes when immortalised in history as the man who broke the four-minute mile. Without live television and the film being rushed back to the studio for broadcast, Bannister requested that BBC reporters make a detour via his home for him to change into a dinner suit for the cameras! One tradition of bespoke spikes has remained throughout the history of the sport. Elite athletes have always been well cared for - whether that be by Foster, Law, Bill Bowerman or a team of biomechanists, designers and engineers.

Another historic athletics footwear company is Norman Walsh, also based in Bolton, and famous for their studded fell shoe, plus a resurgence in the late 90s as a fashion shoe. Studying early photos of Norman Walsh who founded the footwear in 1945 he also used similar U-shaped patterns to the sides of the shoe as GT Law and JW Foster. This was of course a functional addition to stop the leather stretching, and worked much the same as other variations of banding. Even though Adidas had trademarked the design - bought from Finnish shoe company Karhu in 1949 - a number of companies worldwide continued to use the 3 stripes well into the 1960's.

If you have any information, recollections or shoes that might be of interest please let Job know!
jking@englandathletics.org



**GREAT
BRITISH
INNOVATION
EYEWEAR**

OFFICIAL EYEWEAR PROVIDERS TO ENGLAND ATHLETICS

Sunwise sunglasses, based in Oxford, began its incredible journey back in 1996. Since then Sunwise and its respected eyewear has developed into a globally renowned brand. Its success fuelled the launch of new and exciting models, all with the strength and quality people have come to expect over the last decade.

Sunwise is a unique British brand of sunglasses offering high performance, fashion eyewear at affordable prices. Each pair of Sunwise sunglasses is precisely designed and carefully crafted to reduce eyestrain and headaches, providing 100% UV protection whilst continuing to be a highly fashionable piece of eyewear.

The support for Sunwise® has escalated over the years mainly by glowing reviews and consumer recommendations. The Sunwise sunglasses have been rated "Best Buy" by The Independent on Sunday newspaper, featured by The Times newspaper as "Sunglasses for sports enthusiasts", and test reviewed as "they are light, comfortable and secure" by Runner's World magazine in the UK. They have also been rated strong and unique by the Wisden Cricketer magazine in the UK.

Trans-Global Sports Ltd was crowned the New Exporter of the Year 2009 for "Demonstrating Excellence in International Trade" at the UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) awards. The award recognises the company's well designed products, continued hard work and commitment in supplying Sunwise to the overseas market. The Sunwise sunglasses style and protection backed up by the British brand and excellent quality have proved real winners with international trade.

Sunwise is not only a popular fashion accessory offering an exclusive lightweight design coupled with the latest in optical technology, it also offers the luxury of multi-layered, graduated and glare-blocking polarised lenses with 100% UVA/UVB protection.

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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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