





2013







## INDUCTEES 2013

| ★ DIANE CHARLES (LEATHER)       | 2  |                         |
|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| ★ Prof. Sir Ludwig Guttmann     | 3  |                         |
| ★ JACK HOLDEN                   | 4  |                         |
| * SHEILA LERWILL                | 5  | IN DADTINES IND MITH    |
| ★ ALAN PASCOE                   | 6  | AMATEUR                 |
| ★ JIM PETERS                    | 7  | ATHLETIC<br>ASSOCIATION |
| ★ GORDON PIRIE                  | 8  | SUPPORTED BY            |
| ★ DON THOMPSON                  | 9  | AIJ                     |
| ★ MEL WATMAN                    | 10 | S sweatshop             |
| FEATURE: GET READY FOR GLASGOW! | 20 |                         |

#### Previous Inductees

| ★ HAROLD ABRAHAMS     | 11 | ★ SALLY GUNNELL      | 14   | ★ Ann Packer             | 17   |
|-----------------------|----|----------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| ★ MALCOLM ARNOLD      | 11 | ★ Dame Marea Hartman | N 14 | ★ WILF PAISH             | 17   |
| ★ STEVE BACKLEY       | 11 | ★ TOM HAMPSON        | 14   | ★ Jean Pickering         | 17   |
| ★ SIR ROGER BANNISTER | 11 | ★ DAVID HEMERY       | 14   | * RON PICKERING          | 17   |
| ★ CHRIS BRASHER       | 11 | * ALBERT HILL        | 14   | ★ PAULA RADCLIFFE        | 17   |
| ★ LORD BURGHLEY       | 11 | ★ DAVID HOLDING      | 14   | ★ MARY RAND              | 18   |
| ★ SIR CHRIS CHATAWAY  | 12 | ★ DAME KELLY HOLMES  | 15   | * ALF SHRUBB             | 18   |
| ★ LINFORD CHRISTIE    | 12 | ★ FRED HOUSDEN       | 15   | ★ TESSA SANDERSON        | 18   |
| ★ LORD SEBASTIAN COE  | 12 | ★ DOROTHY HYMAN      | 15   | ★ MIKE SMITH             | 18   |
| ★ DAVID COLEMAN       | 12 | ★ DEREK IBBOTSON     | 15   | ★ NOEL THATCHER          | 18   |
| ★ KATHY COOK          | 12 | ★ JOHN LE MASURIER   | 15   | ★ DALEY THOMPSON         | 18   |
| ★ STEVE CRAM          | 12 | ★ DENISE LEWIS       | 15   | ★ DOROTHY TYLER          | 19   |
| ★ GEOFF DYSON         | 13 | ★ BRUCE LONGDEN      | 16   | ★ DENIS WATTS            | 19   |
| ★ Jonathan Edwards    | 13 | ★ DOUGLAS LOWE       | 16   | ** CAPTAIN F.A.M WEBSTER | ₹ 19 |
| ★ DON FINLAY          | 13 | ★ Ken Matthews       | 16   | ★ FATIMA WHITBREAD       | 19   |
| ★ Brendan Foster      | 13 | ★ DAVID MOORCROFT    | 16   | ★ HAROLD WHITLOCK        | 19   |
| ★ WALTER GEORGE       | 13 | ★ SAM MUSSABINI      | 16   | ★ Sydney Wooderson       | 19   |
| ★ PW 'JIMMY' GREEN    | 13 | ★ STEVE OVETT        | 16   |                          |      |

### Introduction

The annual England Athletics Hall of Fame and Volunteer Awards Night always highlights so much of what is great in our sport.

Athletics sees people inspired to achieve great things. Sometimes these achievements are by feted athletes in the competitive arena with records broken and titles won. Other achievements have been in what has been contributed to the sport in enabling many others to have an involvement in athletics, in supporting the outstanding successes of others or in building the sport that we enjoy so much.

Our Hall of Fame inductions always offer a rich reminder of the great heritage of our sport and the debt we owe to those who have gone ahead of us.

We see the inspiring stories of athletes and other individuals. Some of them broke new ground in a world that looked very different to that which we live in today. Sometimes what we take for granted in our sport today is as a result of the vision of someone who did not accept the boundaries of performance, innovation or endeavour that seemed to exist in the world they lived in.

The tales of those inducted into the England Athletics Hall of Fame reveal tremendous, engaging and fascinating personalities. But we also see how these people often saw setbacks and the revealing nature of how they responded to these. In some cases they could never perhaps have foretold what their willingness to innovate or refusal to give-up would lead to in the future.

So it is that our Hall of Fame rightly recognises those who are inducted – they each deserve the formal recognition and honour of being inducted – but it is also a privilege and an inspiration for us to be reminded of what they have achieved and be encouraged in our own efforts in the sport, in whatever form these efforts take.

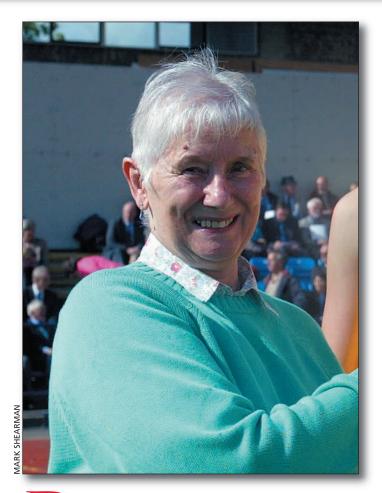
With the Commonwealth Games approaching it is appropriate that this was a championship in which many of our latest and previous Hall of Fame inductees made their mark. Our sport is always offering fresh opportunities for our next generation of champions and pioneers to be making their impact on the sport!



Peter King Chairman England Athletics







# DIANE CHARLES (LEATHER)

Born: 7.1.1933, Streetly (Staffordshire)

**Club:** Birchfield Harriers

Major medals: Silver – 1954 & 1958 European 800m

**World records: 440** yards – 56.6 in 1954; **880** yards – 2:09.0 in 1954; **1500m** – 4:30.0 and 4:29.7 in 1957; **mile** – 5:02.6 in 1953, 5:00.2 and 4:49.6 in 1954, 4:50.8 and 4:45.0 in 1955; **3x880** yards relay – 6:49.0 in 1953, 6:46.0 in 1954

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 



mong the guests of honour at the 50th anniversary celebrations in May 2004 of Roger Bannister's pioneering four minute mile at Oxford was Diane Charles (née Leather). Much to her astonishment as well as delight, it seemed, her name when announced elicited warm applause from the crowd assembled at Iffley Road. Her miling exploits of half a century earlier had not been forgotten. Being the first woman to break five minutes was not comparable to becoming the first man to duck under four minutes, but during the infancy of the women's event it was rated a highly significant landmark, coming as it did just 23 days after Bannister's feat

Diane Leather was 20 when in 1953 she first smashed the world best for the mile (it did not become an official IAAF approved world record event until 1967) with 5:02.6. A few weeks later Edith Treybal of Romania ran 5:00.3, a time that Diane reduced to an even more tantalising 5:00.2 early in the 1954 season. Three days after that, in the Midland Championships at Birmingham's Perry Barr Stadium, the 1.78m (5ft 10in) tall Birchfield Harrier edged through the barrier with 4:59.6.

It proved a memorable year, for in June she set a world 880 yards record of 2:09.0 and in August she finished second in the inaugural European 800m championship to the great Soviet runner, Nina Otkalenko. Diane also demonstrated impressive speed for a four-time English cross country champion by clocking 56.6 for 440 yards, which equalled the world best although admittedly considerably inferior to the existing 400m mark of 55.0.

In 1955 she made two substantial improvements to the mile record. In May she clocked 4:50.8, while in September she registered 4:45.0 with an unofficial world best en route of 4:22.2 at 1500m. That time would stand as a world best for seven years and a British best for 11 years. She also set three British 800m records with a best of 2:06.9 and closed her season with a British 400m record of 56.3. Clearly she would have been an Olympic medal contender in 1956 at either 800m or 1500m, but neither event was on the programme in Melbourne as the only women's track events were 100m, 200m, 80m hurdles and 4x100m relay!

A notable achievement in 1957 was winning the WAAA 880 yards and mile titles on the same afternoon, and in 1958 she again struck silver at the European Championships, with a UK record 2:06.6. Married to Peter Charles in July 1959, Diane was past her best performances by 1960 and although she fulfilled an ambition by making the Olympic team she was eliminated in the 800m heats. A mother of four, she became a social worker first in London and then in Cornwall, retiring at the age of 70.

ad Ludwig Guttmann lived to see the 2012
Paralympic Games he would have been
delighted but astounded. When he was
appointed Director of the National Spinal Injuries
Centre at Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire,
which opened in February 1944, he could hardly have
envisaged that his controversial belief that his
patients – mainly severely disabled military personnel
– could benefit by taking up sport would lead to a
huge worldwide movement.

Guttmann, a distinguished Jewish neurosurgeon, fled Nazi Germany shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, and lived in England for the rest of his life, becoming a naturalised citizen in 1945.

Stoke Mandeville would become the spiritual home of disability sport. He revolutionised the treatment of patients with spinal cord injuries. His philosophy, which was by no means accepted by some others in his profession, was that physical activities could help integrate his patients more fully into the wider world as valued members of society. Not only was sport of therapeutic and psychological value, complementing conventional physiotherapy, but it could build up physical strength, co-ordination and endurance. In Guttmann's view, sport would develop self-discipline, self-respect, competitive spirit and comradeship.

The team games which formed part of the rehabilitation programme at the hospital developed into a wider programme of activities and the first Stoke Mandeville Games, featuring 16 ex-servicemen and women in a wheelchair archery contest, was held on 28 July 1948, the opening day of the London Olympics. Four years later Stoke Mandeville hosted the first International Games. In 1956 Guttmann received an award from the International Olympic Committee for his services to the Olympic movement through his inspirational work with wheelchair sports. From 1960 the International Games were usually staged every four years by the Olympic host country. In 1984 the International Olympic Committee approved the name Paralympic Games.

In 1961 Guttmann founded the British Sports Association for the Disabled (later known as the English Federation of Disability Sport) and he was knighted in 1966.

It was the vision of Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann which led to today's thriving sport, with no fewer than 4,302 sportsmen and women from 164 countries participating in the 2012 Paralympics. Capacity crowds of 80,000 in London's Olympic Stadium thrilled to and marvelled at the exploits of such superb athletes as David Weir, Jonnie Peacock, Richard Whitehead and Hannah Cockcroft.

All who compete in disability sport owe a huge debt to Ludwig Guttmann and his colleagues at Stoke Mandeville, and how appropriate it was that his daughter, Eva Loeffler, should have been appointed Mayor of the London 2012 Paralympic Games athletes' village. Sir Ludwig died in 1980, aged 80, but his spirit and example lives on.



## PROFESSOR SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN

Born: 3.7.1899, Tost, Germany (now Toszek, Poland); died 18.3.1980

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 





## Jack Holden

Born: 13.3.1907, Bilston (Staffordshire); died 7.3.2004

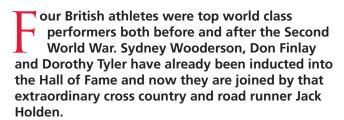
**Club:** Tipton Harriers

Major medals: Gold – 1933, 1934, 1935 & 1939 International Cross Country; 1950 Commonwealth & European Marathon

World best: 30 miles track (120 laps of White City!)

3:00:16.4 in 1946

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 



Winning his first England vest in 1929, Holden went on to build up the most distinguished record in British cross country history: English champion in 1938 and 1939; International champion in 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1939. He was also a useful track runner – three times AAA 6 miles champion.

As he was 38 when the war ended, having spent five years as an RAF physical education instructor, it might have been thought that Holden's running days were long over but in 1946, after winning a third English cross country title, he decided to take up marathoning. He was rated among the favourites for the 1948 Olympic title in London, but fell victim to the bane of all road runners ... blisters. In order to guard against soreness in a marathon Holden had always pickled his feet in potassium permanganate but this time he overdid it and when blisters developed under the leather-like outer skin he had no alternative but to drop out after 17 miles. He was so distraught that, when interviewed 52 years later, the memory still weighed heavily. "I was so disappointed that I had let everybody down. I thought I was going to die, I was so upset about it. I felt really ill."

Happily, his greatest moments as an athlete were still to come. Holden – who worked as a groundsman and whose diet included the consumption of 100 eggs a week - was to enjoy a fantastic season in 1950 when, aged 43, he proved himself the world's number one marathoner by winning five races out of five including the British Empire and European Championships. He began in February (while still 42) with the Empire Games in Auckland. He won by over four minutes in 2:32:57, a performance all the more remarkable in that he ran the last nine miles barefoot after discarding his rain-sodden plimsolls. Next came the Midland (2:38:24), Polytechnic (2:33:07) and AAA (personal best of 2:31:04) races, and as a grand finale he seized the European crown in Brussels in 2:32:14. As he was presented to the 19 year-old Prince Baudouin of Belgium this astonishingly durable runner was able to remark: "Glad to meet you, sir. Met your father and grandfather before you!"

Content that with the rise of Jim Peters British marathon running was in good hands, Holden announced his retirement in 1951. Of his 17 marathons he won 14, finished second in one and dropped out of the other two. He died days before his 97th birthday in 2004.



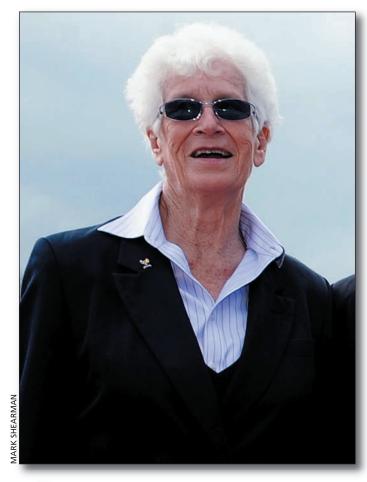
heila Lerwill (née Alexander), an international netball player who did not take up athletics until she was 18, occupies a place of importance in the history of women's high jumping on two counts. She held the world record at 1.72m from 1951 to 1954 and, coached by George Pallett, was the pioneer among female straddle jumpers.

Pallett explained that Sheila – then using the scissors style – came under his coaching influence as an Olympic high jump "possible" for the 1948 Games. Her best then, in 1947, was 1.50m. "It was apparent," Pallett wrote in his book Women's Athletics (1955), "that while appearing to have no really exceptional spring she was, in general, an attractive athletic proposition. "Highly strung, but with a strength of character and self-control out of the ordinary, she did not appear likely to be upset by difficulties and she was keen to do well. It was my view that the scissors style of jumping, outmoded and uneconomical for men, was not the best for women, and after consultation with a medical specialist in women's health troubles I put it to Sheila that, if she changed to the straddle style, at least a British record was a possibility in time, but that as a change would take months to become really effective she might not qualify for the Olympic Games."

She did indeed fail to make the team for the London Games of 1948 but progressed steadily and in 1950 she came into her own with victory in the WAAA Championships, a new British record of 1.69m for second place on the world all-time list and a gold medal at the European Championships. The following year was even more notable, for in March she became Mrs Michael Lerwill and in July she enjoyed her greatest moment at the WAAA Championships at the White City, succeeding at 1.72m to add a centimetre to the world record which had been held by Holland's legendary Fanny Blankers-Koen since 1943.

Despite – from a high temperature, cough and a calf bleeding from a spike scratch, Sheila put up a great fight at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. Third-time clearances at 1.63m and 1.65m kept her in contention for the gold medal but South Africa's Esther Brand had cleared 1.65m at the second attempt and clinched the title by making 1.67m. Sheila's silver medal was the third in a row by a Briton, following Dorothy Tyler in 1936 and 1948 ... and the sequence would be maintained by Thelma Hopkins in 1956 and Dorothy Shirley in 1960.

In 1953 she made a number of narrowly unsuccessful world record attempts, ending the year though with a world indoor best of 1.67m in an exhibition at Wembley. In her final season, 1954, she lifted her fourth national title and placed fourth in the Commonwealth Games and fifth in the European Championships.



## SHEILA LERWILL

**Born:** 16.8.1928, London

Clubs: Selsonia Ladies AC, Spartan Ladies AC

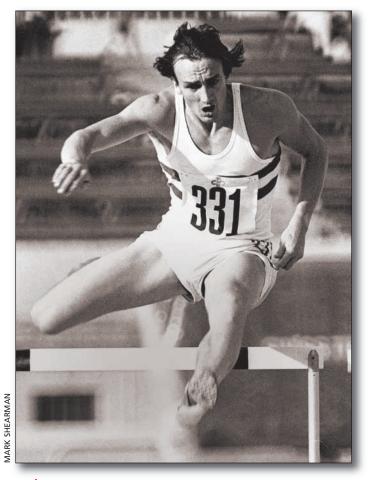
Major medals: Gold – 1950 European; Silver – 1952

Olympics High Jump

World record: High Jump - 1.72m in 1951

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 





Alan Pascoe

Born: 11.10.1947, Portsmouth

Clubs: Portsmouth AC, Polytechnic Harriers

Major medals: Gold – 1969 European Indoor 50m hurdles, 1974 Commonwealth and European 400m hurdles, 1974 European 4x400m; Silver – 1971 European 110m hurdles, 1972 Olympic 4x400m; 1974 Commonwealth 4x400m; Bronze – 1969 European 110m hurdles, 1978 Commonwealth 400m hurdles

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 



he supreme honours – a world record, or an Olympic title – may have eluded him, but Alan Pascoe's high-level consistency over a very long period was remarkable. Along the way he collected European and Commonwealth gold medals, an Olympic relay silver, British records, 13 AAA titles and the distinction of never having been beaten at the 400m hurdles event in international matches. As he was once quoted: "I have lived wonderfully off athletics. Ten years at the top, travelling the world, seeing people and places, knowing moments of achievement few men will ever enjoy. Not at all bad for a round-shouldered asthmatic off a council estate."

Pascoe's wide-ranging involvement with athletics must be unique: world class competitor, British team captain, husband of an international athlete (sprinter Della James), teacher, college PE lecturer, meeting promoter, athletes' representative on the British Board, Sports Council member, TV commentator. He gave up teaching and lecturing to enter the field of sports promotion and sponsorship and for many years was one of the most influential figures in British athletics as holder of the sport's marketing rights. He was vice-chairman of London's successful 2012 Olympic bid.

He took up sport on doctor's orders. He suffered from severe attacks of asthma as a youngster and was advised to indulge in plenty of sport as an aid to breathing. He quickly made his mark as a hurdler and his first major international success came at 21 when winning the 50m hurdles at the 1969 European Indoor Championships. Later that year, at the outdoor championships, he took the bronze medal at 110m hurdles. He upgraded to silver in that event in 1971, a year notable for a unique AAA 200m and 110m hurdles double.

This versatile athlete came away from the 1972 Olympics with a silver medal in the 4x400m relay, contributing a pulsating 45.1 leg, and that persuaded him to concentrate on the 400m hurdles. In 1973 he won at the AAA Championships and European Cup Final, while at the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch in January 1974 he broke through with a 48.83 victory which ranked him among the world's top ten of all time. Further golds followed at the European Championships in the hurdles (48.82) and relay.

He was better still in 1975, which saw him ranked as the world's number one. He reduced his personal best to 48.59 and lost only one race all season and that by inches to Olympic champion John Akii-Bua after just returning from a hamstring injury. Unfortunately, further injuries ruined his chances of Olympic success in 1976, although in the circumstances he did well to reach the final where in a do or die effort he was a close second to Ed Moses at halfway. But the consequences of this folly, or bravery, were inevitable and Pascoe faded to eighth and last. His career came to a close in 1978, adding one more medal to his tally: a Commonwealth Games bronze.

im Peters had considered retiring after the disappointment of being lapped in the 1948 Olympic 10,000m. At 29 he could look back on a certain measure of success as a track runner -AAA champion at 6 miles in 1946 and 10 miles in 1947 – and he had at least achieved his ambition of representing his country. However, his coach 'Johnny' Johnston pleaded with him to train for the next Olympic marathon. Peters was reluctant, but eventually decided to give it a try and by steadily increasing the severity of his training he was ready to shake the road running world in the spring of 1951. He made his marathon debut in the Polytechnic race from Windsor to Chiswick, winning by five minutes in 2:29:24 to smash the British record which had stood since 1929.

It was in the same race a year later that he really left the athletics world gasping. Up until then the fastest marathon ever recorded was 2:25:39 and yet Peters was timed in an almost unbelievable 2:20:43. 'Short course' was the first thought of the sceptics but the distance was found to be 260 yards over the standard! He travelled to Helsinki the following month as favourite for the Olympic gold medal, regardless of the announced intention of Emil Zátopek to contest the marathon as well as the 5000m and 10,000m. Alas, he was unable to finish the race, developing severe cramp in his left leg and eventually collapsing after 19 miles, while the incredible Zátopek won in 2:23:04 to complete a treble that may never be emulated.

Peters bounced back with a brilliant 1953 season, winning all four of his marathons and setting further world bests of 2:18:41 in the 'Poly' and 2:18:35 in Turku (Finland). The following June he improved again to 2:17:40 over his favourite Windsor to Chiswick route and made his way to Vancouver for the Commonwealth Games well prepared for his first major title. However, the afternoon of the marathon was hot and humid and Peters was a man who refused to compromise. Unable to hold himself back he was a good quarter of an hour in front of the next man when he entered the stadium. There, severely dehydrated, he repeatedly fell over while attempting to cover the last few hundred yards. The agony came to an end, at least for the spectators, just 200 yards from the finish when distraught officials carried him off. Peters never raced again. Indeed he was lucky to stay alive and for the rest of his life (he died in 1999 at the age of 80) he was afflicted by headaches and giddiness from that ordeal in the sun. So he never did win a major title but he was honoured by royalty as he later received a special gold medal from the Duke of Edinburgh, who had watched his agony, inscribed: 'To J.Peters as a token of admiration for a most gallant marathon runner'.



## JIM PETERS

Born: 24.10.1918, Homerton (London); died 9.1.1999

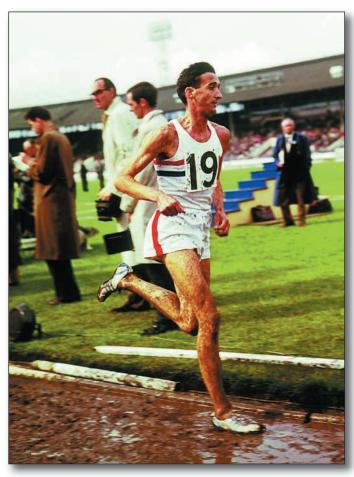
**Club:** Essex Beagles

Major Medals: Bronze – 1954 Commonwealth 6 miles

World bests: Marathon - 2:20:43 in 1952, 2:18:41

and 2:18:35 in 1953, 2:17:40 in 1954 **Inducted into Hall of Fame:** 2013





## GORDON Pirie

Born: 10.2.1931, Leeds; died 7.12.1991

**Club:** South London Harriers

Major medals: Silver - 1956 Olympic 5000m;

Bronze - 1958 European 5000m

**World records: 3000m** – 7:55.5 and 7:52.7 in 1956; **5000m** – 13:36.8 in 1956; **6 miles** – 28:19.4 in 1953;

4x1500m - 15:27.2 in 1953

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 



ordon Pirie was a megastar of his time, a runner whose appearance in any race would produce a frisson of excitement and anticipation. You either loved him or hated him; you certainly couldn't ignore him. Inspired by the example of Emil Zátopek, he trained like a demon (often covering well over 200 miles a week), bucked the system by being coached by a foreigner (the German, Waldemar Gerschler), and was continuously at odds with officialdom and the media. Nothing was allowed to stand in the way of his ambition to become the world's greatest runner.

Pirie placed third in the AAA junior mile in 1948 but the really significant event for him that year was the London Olympics where he fell under the spell of Zátopek. Punishing himself mercilessly in training he began to reap the rewards in 1951. He collected his first British record when winning the AAA 6 miles title, aged 20. The following year he broke Sydney Wooderson's British 3 miles mark and at the "Zátopek Olympics" in Helsinki he placed seventh at 10,000m and fourth at 5000m.

The full range of Pirie's talent became apparent in 1953. At one end of the scale the tall, crewcut "thin man of athletics" won the first of three consecutive English cross country titles, at the other he outkicked the American star, Wes Santee, in the inaugural Emsley Carr Mile. He set a world 6 miles record as well as numerous British records between 3000m and 10,000m.

Pirie proclaimed that one day he would clock 13:40 for 5000m, a performance which at the time appeared to be in the realm of science-fiction as the world record stood at 13:58.2 ... yet in 1956 he hacked 25 sec from his previous best to clock a staggering 13:36.8 on a rain-sodden track in Bergen and just three days afterwards, in Trondheim, he set a world 3000m record of 7:55.5, a time he later reduced to 7:52.7 in Malmö. Incidentally, on the morning of that race he did 50 bursts over 100 yards!

He went to Melbourne with the intention of winning two gold medals. Had he gone just for the 5000m, he might have become Olympic champion, but he believed that first he could take on world record holder Vladimir Kuts at 10,000m. A less uncompromising athlete might have aimed for a fairly 'safe' silver medal but Pirie wanted the gold or nothing. It was a searing duel with Kuts torturing his rival with a series of bursts and, with just three and a half laps remaining, Pirie finally broke to finish eighth over a minute behind Kuts, who later admitted he was at breaking point himself when he inflicted the burst that finally caused Pirie to crack. In the 5000m, Kuts led throughout with Pirie taking the silver medal.

He continued to break records and win AAA titles until, following the 1961 season, he turned professional. He was British orienteering champion in 1967 and 1968 and became a successful coach. He died of cancer in 1991, aged 60.

ew athletes prepared more thoroughly and imaginatively for an Olympic test than Don Thompson, a small bespectacled London fire insurance clerk. He had learned the hard way at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne what dehydration and heat exhaustion can do to someone who has not prepared adequately for a 50 kilometres walk in high temperatures. In 90°F heat he collapsed at 42 kilometres while in fifth place and finished up unconscious in a hospital bed in the Olympic Village.

Thus acutely aware that the heat and humidity likely to be encountered at the Rome Olympics of 1960 would be a vital factor in determining the result, Thompson set about acclimatising himself. For three months before the Olympics, in addition to his usual gruelling training, he performed exercises on the spot in his tracksuit in an improvised steam room at his parents' house with temperatures hovering around the 100°F mark. Only much later did he discover that the dizziness he felt was a form of carbon monoxide poisoning as he was using a paraffin heater and boiling kettle and there was no ventilation.

All the discomfort was worth it, for as a result he adapted to Rome's sultry climate without trouble and was able to perform to the best of his ability and at the finish he was 17 sec clear in 4:25:30, an Olympic record. The sight of Thompson, wearing sun glasses and a French Foreign Legion type head-dress, striding briskly towards the finish in the stadium was one that was not easily forgotten by the British supporters present, particularly as he was his country's only athletics gold medallist in those Games. Known affectionately as il topolino ('the little mouse') ever since he won a 100 kilometres race in Milan in 1955. he captured the hearts of everyone in the stadium as he wiggled around the final lap. The glorious Olympic tradition in this event established by Tommy Green in 1932 and Harold Whitlock (Thompson's own adviser) in 1936 lived on.

Thompson, who won the classic London to Brighton race on eight consecutive occasions, had set what was considered a phenomenal record of 7:35:12 for the 53 miles 129 yards (86 kilometres) course in 1957 – an average of over 7mph. During his career he broke the British 50 kilometres record several times.

Appropriately, he it was who bettered Whitlock's 20 year-old mark in 1956, progressing considerably to 4:12:19 when winning the national title in 1959. Paul Nihill seized the record with his Olympic silver medal winning 4:11:32 in 1964 but the following year Thompson was credited with 4:09:15 in Italy and no Briton would walk faster until Bob Dobson in 1978.



## Don Thompson

Born: 20.1.1933, Hillingdon (Middlesex);

died 4.10.2006

Club: Metropolitan Walking Club

Major medals: (At 50km Walk) Gold – 1960 Olympics;

Bronze – 1962 European

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 







Born: 26.5.1938, London

**Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2013** 

e has been writing on the sport for 60 years and is probably still best known as editor of the old pocket sized Athletics Weekly from the 1960s to 1980s. Mel Watman's lifelong affair with athletics was sparked by a school trip to the 1950 AAA Championships at the White City. His first heroes were sprinter McDonald Bailey, Olympic 400m champion Arthur Wint and the young miler Roger Bannister. Watman's one regret in athletics is missing Bannister's historic 4 minute mile due to sitting a GCE exam on May 6 1954.

By then he was already contributing to Athletics Weekly. In 1957 founding editor Jimmy Green appointed him overseas news compiler. Meanwhile Watman was serving his journalistic apprenticeship with a local newspaper. After two years' National Service in the RAF he joined AW full time in 1961. In 1968 he succeeded Jimmy Green as editor, fulfilling his life's ambition.

Possibly no one has written more words on athletics than Watman. In addition to his work with AW, Athletics Today and currently Athletics International, he also freelanced for various newspapers and news agencies. He has produced more than 30 books, including most recently the Official Histories of the AAA and Women's AAA. In 2012 he edited the IAAF's prestigious centenary celebration book. He was cofounder of the National Union of Track Statisticians in 1958 and the British Athletics Writers' Association, of which he is now honorary president, in 1963.

His own career as an athlete was modest, starting as a sprinter and ending up completing the New York and London Marathons. His only distinction was an unbeaten record at steeplechase; ran one, won one!

Watman considers himself the luckiest of men, having spent a lifetime being paid to write on the sport he loves. He has been fortunate to have witnessed so many marvellous performances. He attended the first of nine Olympics in Rome in 1960 and was in London's Olympic Stadium to experience 'Super Saturday'.

His most thrilling moments in athletics? One remains Chataway v Kuts over 5000m in 1954. Another was the British women's 4x400m team, anchored by Lillian Board, beating the French in a nail-biting finish at the 1969 Athens European Championships. He witnessed Bob Beamon's 8.90 in Mexico City through binoculars and the duel between Mike Powell and Carl Lewis at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo.

He writes: "I have been so privileged over the years to have reported on and documented the wonderful sport of athletics. I am still as enthusiastic as I was back in 1950, my priority these days being to help ensure, as with the Hall of Fame, that the great champions of the past are remembered and honoured."



### Previous Inductees



#### Harold Abrahams

#### 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**

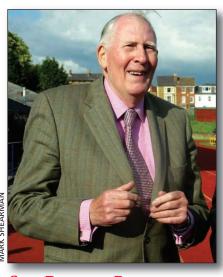
A distinguished coaching career has seen him guide five athletes to becoming Olympic or world champion. Appointed Welsh National Coach in 1974, a position he held for 20 years. He has served as British Athletics Head Coach, UK Athletics Performance Director, UKA Senior Performance Coach and National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

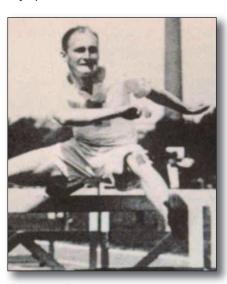
For many people the most historic moment in sport is when Sir Roger ran 3:59.4 to clock the first ever 4min mile at Iffley Road Track, Oxford, in May 1954. But it was not only the clock he could conquer. He went head-to-head with arch-rival and fellow sub-4 runner John Landy in the Empire Games and won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



#### SIR CHRIS CHATAWAY

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012

In August 1954 Chataway won the Commonwealth Games 3 miles, and finished second to Vladimir Kuts in the European Championships. Forty-five days later at White City he edged past Kuts in the final few strides to lower the 5,000m world record to 13:51.6 in one of the greatest races ever. Having been pacemaker for the historic race in 1954 Chataway ran his own four minute mile (3:59.8) in 1955 and set a world 3 miles record of 13:23.2.



#### 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.



#### 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 and Paralympics to England.



#### David Coleman

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008**

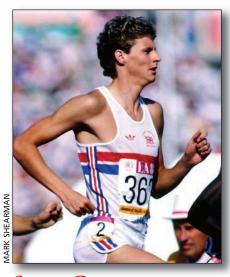
David Coleman is the athletics and sports commentator for the BBC whose voice provided the soundtrack to some of the most historic moments in the sport. Coleman started work for the BBC in 1954 and his work included covering 11 summer Olympic Games and many other world class events making his words synonymous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



#### KATHY COOK

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011

Kathy Cook (née Smallwood) amassed 23 international championship medals covering the Olympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games and European Championships. The feat equals the most by any English athlete (Linford Christie). 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.



#### 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.



#### JONATHAN EDWARDS

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009**

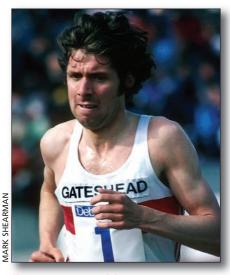
Won two Commonwealth Games silvers, a World Championships bronze, and a World Cup before being hit by Epstein Barr virus. His 1995 comeback saw a UK record of 17.58, 18.43 & 18.39 at the European Cup (wind-aided), a world record of 17.98, then 18.16 & 18.29 to dominate the World Championships. Won at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



#### DON FINLAY

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012**

Don Finlay established himself as Europe's finest sprint hurdler in 1932 and won the first of seven consecutive AAA titles. His career saw two Olympic medals, victories in the European Championships and Empire Games, and an almost perfect international match record ... he was decorated with the DFC and the AFC during WW2 before returning to competition in 1947, qualifying for another Olympics and taking fourth at the 1950 Empire Games!



#### **Brendan Foster**

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2010

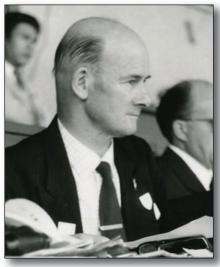
'Big Bren' achieved his titles and records over a range of distances. His 3000m world record of 7:35.1 came at the opening of Gateshead's track in 1974 – the same year as his bold European 5000m title. The previous year he'd run 8:13.68, a WR for two miles. In 1978 he took Commonwealth gold at 10,000m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



#### PW '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.



#### SALLY GUNNELL

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008**

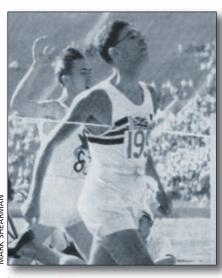
Her career saw her win World Championships silver in 1991, Olympic gold in 1992 and World Championships gold (in a world record) in 1993. In the Commonwealth Games she won gold in 1986, 1990 and 1994. One of few athletes to hold Commonwealth, World, Olympic and European titles at same time.



#### DAME MAREA HARTMAN

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012

Early in 1950, aged 29, Marea Hartman was elected Hon. Treasurer of the Women's AAA. In 1958 she was women's team manager at the European Championships. Dame Marea remained British team manager for 20 more years. She chaired the IAAF's Women's Commission for 13 years, became Hon. Treasurer then Chairman of the British Amateur Athletic Board. After the WAAA amalgamated with the men she became the first female President of the AAA.



#### TOM HAMPSON

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011**

In 1930 he won the AAA Championships with an English record of 1:53.2. At the inaugural British Empire Games he won by 20 yards in 1:52.4. At the 1932 Olympics Hampson went from 20m off the lead at halfway to win gold by six inches in a barrier-breaking 1:49.70. He was among the first ten senior honorary AAA coaches appointed.



#### 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

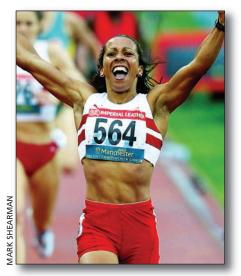
Albert Hill achieved the 800m/1500m double at the 1920 Olympics (adding a silver in the 3000m team race). He was a chain smoking railway ticket collector who trained twice a week. He initially excelled at longer distances including winning the AAA 4M title in 1910. A great tactician and bold racer Hill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



#### **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.



#### 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.



#### **DEREK IBBOTSON**

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011**

The 'four minute smiler', was one of Britain's fine world mile record holders. By 1954 he was world class at 3 and 6 miles. In 1956 he became the world's ninth 4 minute miler in the Emsley Carr Mile and took Olympic 5000m bronze. In 1957 at White City track, he defeated a dazzling field running 3:57.2, breaking the record of 3:57.9 by Australia's John Landy.



#### Fred Housden

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012**

Best known as the man who taught David Hemery to hurdle, Fred Housden was one of our finest coaches. In 1921 he represented England at 110m hurdles and long jump. As a pole vaulter he was second in the AAAs twice and represented the British Empire against the USA in 1928. Early in the 1960s he collaborated with Geoff Dyson on the book, 'The Mechanics of Athletics', the definitive work on the subject.



#### 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.



#### DOROTHY HYMAN

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011

At the Rome Olympics of 1960 Dorothy Hyman came away with silver in the 100 (11.3) and bronze in the 200. She took the 1962 European 100m title, with silver in the 200 and bronze in the relay. At the Commonwealth Games she won a sprint double and relay silver.

In 1963 Dorothy was unbeaten and topped the world list at 100m.



#### Denise Lewis

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011**

Olympic gold in Sydney in 2000 came despite an Achilles tendon injury. Lying eighth after the high jump, Denise took the lead before the 800m and battled the pain to strike gold.

In 1994 she won the Commonwealth Games. In 1996 came a British record and Olympic bronze. In both 1997 and 1999 Denise won silver in the World Championships. 1998 saw her as European and Commonwealth champion.



#### **BRUCE LONGDEN**

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011**

Bruce Longden guided two of Britain's greatest ever athletes. Daley Thompson set a world record of 8648 prior to 1980 Olympic gold. He won Commonwealth and European titles in 1982 and 1986, the Worlds in 1983, and Olympic gold in 1984 with a world record. Sally Gunnell claimed Commonwealth 100m hurdles gold. Then came her remarkable 400m hurdle career including Olympic gold and the world title in a world record 52.74.



#### DAVE MOORCROFT

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012

In 1978 Dave Moorcroft beat world record holder Filbert Bayi for the Commonwealth 1500m title in 3:35.48. In 1982 ran 3:49.34 in Oslo's Dream Mile before front running his way to breaking Henry Rono's 5000m world record with the sensational 13:00.41. He then set a European 3000m record of 7:32.79 and won the Commonwealth 5000m. In 1993 he set an outdoor world veterans mile record of 4:02.53. Moorcroft was appointed Chief Executive Officer of UK Athletics in January 1999, remaining in post until 2007.



#### **Douglas Lowe**

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012**

Douglas Lowe became Olympic 800m champion in 1924 and four years later became the first man to win a second Olympic gold at the distance. His Paris time of 1:52.4 took a second off the British record. In 1928 Lowe won by a full second in the Olympic and British record time of 1:51.8. Lowe's last race saw him lower the British record for 800m to 1:51.2 in August 1928. He went on to serve as Honorary Secretary of the AAA from 1931 to 1938.



#### SAM MUSSABINI

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011

Sam Mussabini coached two individual British Olympic champions: Albert Hill won 800m and 1500m titles in Antwerp in 1920, and as made famous by Chariots of Fire, Harold Abrahams, the 1924 100m champion. Mussabini had guided South Africa's Reggie Walker to the 1908 100m title. He coached Willie Applegarth to 1912 relay gold and bronze at 200m. In 1914 Applegarth clocked 21.2 for 220 yards, the world record around a turn until 1932!



#### Ken Matthews

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011

Ken Matthews won 20 kilometres titles at the European Championships in 1962, Lugano Trophy in 1961 and 1963 and Olympic gold in 1964 where he set an Olympic record of 1:29:34.

He claimed 17 national titles from 1959, set unofficial world records of 34:26.6 and 34:21.2 for 5M and between 1964 and 1971 held every British record from 5 miles to two hours, including a world best of 69:40.6 for 10 miles.



#### STEVE OVETT

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008**

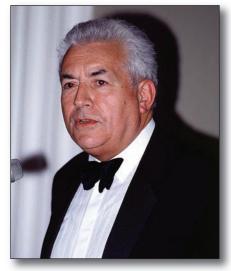
Always regarded as the 'athlete's athlete' Steve Ovett notably won the 800m gold medal at the Moscow Olympics. He won many other national and international championship medals at 800m, 1500m and a Commonwealth Games 5000m title. He possessed a ferocious kick which would often be followed by a celebratory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



#### ANN PACKER

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009**

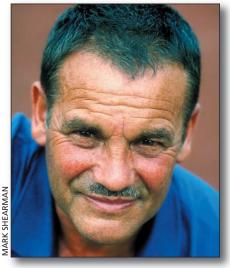
Started as a sprinter, hurdler and jumper but found fame at 800m and retired immediately after her 1964 Olympic success, aged only 22. WAAA long jump champion in 1960, finalist in the 1962 European Championships at 200m and 80m hurdles at the Commonwealth Games. She moved to 400m in 1963. A silver in 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, ran the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund.



#### WILF PAISH

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012**

Wilf Paish guided Tessa Sanderson to javelin gold in the 1984 Olympics. He also coached Mick Hill, to a UK record and World Championships bronze. But Paish had a deep knowledge of all events, coaching Peter Elliott from the age of 16 into an Olympic silver medallist, Commonwealth champion and world indoor record holder at 1500m. A prolific author of technical books and articles, he served as a Great Britain Olympic coach and in 1996 coached the South African Olympic team.



## 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).



#### JEAN PICKERING

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011**

Jean Desforges won 19 times in British colours claiming five international championship medals including bronze in the hurdles and long jump at the 1954 Empire Games. She set national records at long jump and pentathlon.

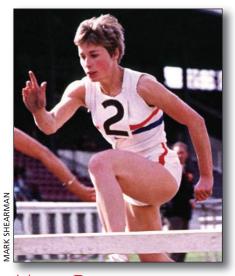
In 1954 Jean married Ron Pickering. After his premature death Jean's work through The Ron Pickering Memorial Fund saw over a million pounds distributed to help young athletes.

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.



#### 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.



#### 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.

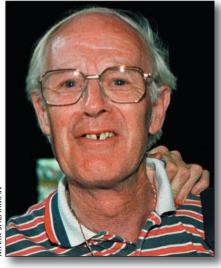


#### Tessa Sanderson

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012**

History was made in Los Angeles in 1984 when Tessa Sanderson's became the first Briton ever to win an Olympic throwing title. In 1980 she won the first of her three Commonwealth Titles. Her all round athleticism was highlighted when she made her mark as a heptathlete, setting a UK record of 6125 points as re-scored on the present tables.

Tessa placed fourth in the 1992 Olympics, and competed in a sixth Olympics in 1996, aged 40.



#### MIKE SMITH

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011**

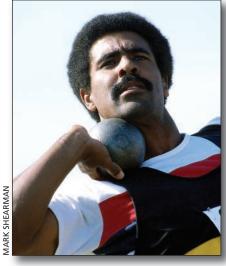
Mike Smith coached outstanding 400m runners including Donna Hartley, Todd Bennett, Roger Black, Kriss Akabusi, and Iwan Thomas in more than 50 years as a coach of the highest order. He was named England's coach of the year in 1987; awarded the Ron Pickering Memorial Award in 1998 for his special contribution to the sport, and in 2009 he received the Services to Coaching Award from England Athletics.



#### 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.



#### 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.



#### FATIMA WHITBREAD

#### **Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012**

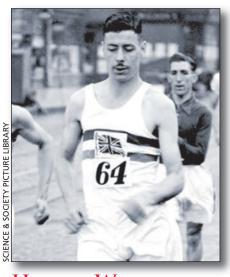
In the 1983 World Championships Fatima's silver medal was Britain's first throws global medal since 1924! In 1984 she was third in the Olympics. In 1986 the qualifying round of the European Championships saw her add over two metres to the world record with 77.44m! She was the first British thrower to break a world record. In the final she took gold with 76.32m. Fatima prevailed again at the 1987 World Championships in Rome. She collected silver at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.



#### **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 (1946). He was Principal National Coach until 1978. He coached Dorothy Hyman to Olympic silver (100m) and bronze (200m) in 1960, as well as to European and Commonwealth titles and European records. He coached Tom Farrell (400m hurdles) and Andy Carter (800m) to British records and helped in the development of Lillian Board, leading up to her Olympic 800m gold.



#### HAROLD WHITLOCK

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011

A long international career lasting until 1952 saw many honours. There was a 1935 world 30 miles track record of 4:29:31.8 en route to 50 miles in 7:44:47.2. He won gold in the 1938 European 50 kilometres and 1936 Olympic 50 kilometres. Whitlock advised Don Thompson, wrote a BAAB instructional booklet, was Chief Judge at the Rome Olympics, Chairman of the IAAF Walk Commission and President of the RWA.



#### CAPT. F.A.M. WEBSTER

#### Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012

Webster helped found and direct the AAA Summer School, held at Loughborough College from 1934, and created Loughborough's School of Athletics, Games & Physical Education – the products of which included Geoff Dyson, John Le Masurier and Denis Watts. The AAA Coaching Scheme owed much to Webster. He also helped form an Amateur Field Events Association, wrote on the history of athletics and coached pioneering women athletes in the 1920s.



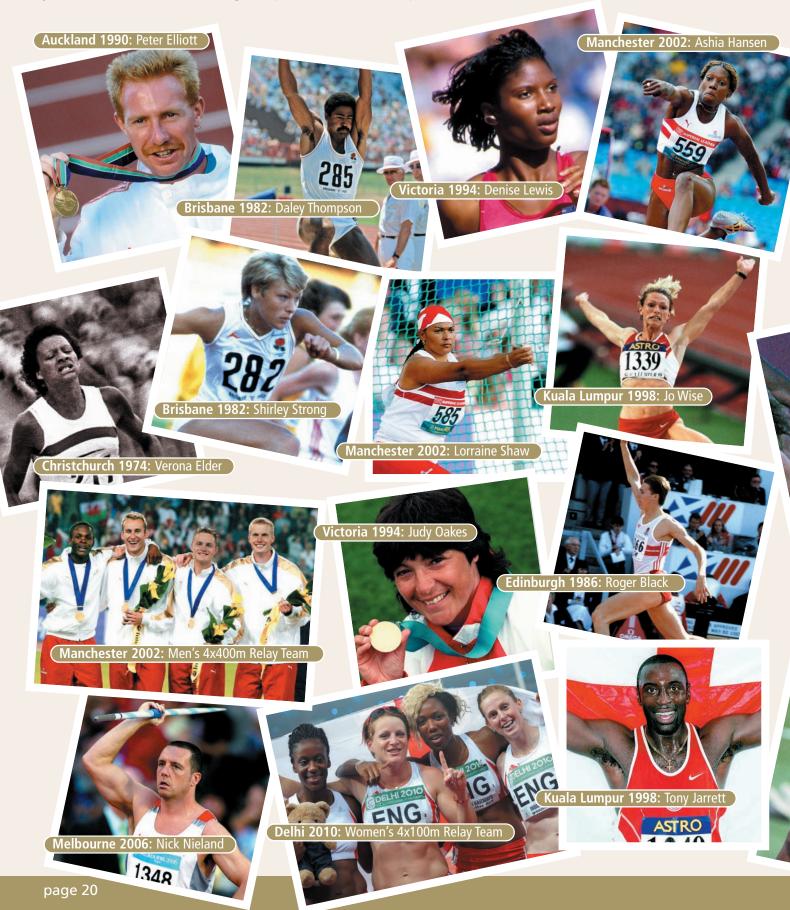
#### Sydney Wooderson

#### 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!

## GET READY FOR GLASGOW!

In advance of the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow in 2014, we celebrate just a small selection of the great performances from previous Games.









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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)

Volume 5 – October 2013 – £6 where sold