

HALL *of* FAME



2016



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AMATEUR
ATHLETIC
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HALL of FAME



INTRODUCTION

The England Athletics Hall of Fame and Volunteer Awards are always an inspiring and humbling event.

Athletics is perhaps unique among sports in the strength of connection that exists from the very grassroots of the sport through to the elite levels. The environment provided by our clubs and their coaches see athletes brought into the sport for the very first time right through to being taken on to outstanding levels of success.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees include two coaches, Bud Baldaro and Ron Roddan who are wonderful examples of this. The support, encouragement and inspiration that they have given athletes extends from those starting their journey in club athletics through to those competing at the very highest echelons of the sport.

There is no need to debate whether they are elite coaches or club coaches, they are undeniably both – they have proved themselves to be thoroughly at home at trackside on a 'normal' winter's training night and on those nights in packed stadiums where their athletes have gone out to contest global finals.

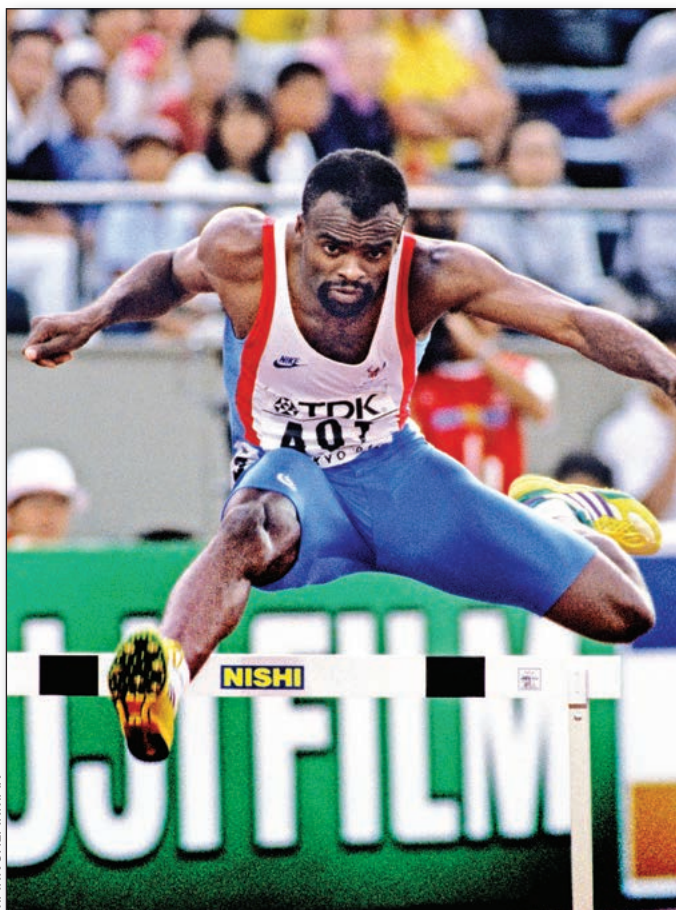
Once again this year's inductees include pioneering and inspirational athletes who refused to accept the odds which were supposed to be against them, were pioneers in taking their events to new levels, achieved remarkable successes and had those watching them out of their seats in excitement. In the case of a number of this year's inductees this was done over careers of notable longevity. And, of course, many continued to contribute to the sport in a variety of ways after their days of competing at the highest level were over.

It is not only appropriate but very inspiring to read and hear once again of what these people achieved and the stories behind those successes. Their achievements are indelibly marked on the history of our sport and we trust that they will continue to serve as inspiration to future generations of athletes, coaches and volunteers.

Athletics is all the better for the wonderful breadth of contribution that this year's inductees have made. I would like to thank each of you for your own contribution to the sport and hope that you find the same sense of pride in the sport from reading of this year's Hall of Fame inductees as I have.




Peter King
Chairman
England Athletics



MARK SHEARMAN

KRISS AKABUSI

Born: 28.11.1958, Paddington (London)

Clubs: Southampton & Eastleigh AC, Team Solent

Major medals:

Gold – 1986 Commonwealth & European 4x400m, 1990 Commonwealth & European 400m hurdles (& 4x400m), 1991 World 4x400m; **Silver** – 1984 Olympic 4x400m, 1987 World 4x400m; **Bronze** – 1991 World 400m hurdles, 1992 Olympic 400m hurdles & 4x400m

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2016

Kriss Akabusi joined the British Army when he was 16 and by the time he was 22, by then a sergeant stationed in Germany as a PT instructor, he had run 48.0 for 400m. Two years later, posted close to Southampton, he improved dramatically after he began being coached by Mike Smith. By the end of 1983 his personal best stood at 46.10. A year later he was an Olympic silver medallist. At the Los Angeles Games he ran 45.43 – ranking him second on the UK all-time list – before being eliminated in the semis, but his moment of glory came in the relay where the British team finished second to the USA in a European record of 2:59.13.

His switch to 400m hurdles came in 1987. Mike Smith introduced him to hurdles coach Mike Whittingham, and Akabusi proved to be a quick learner, finding that his speed was enhanced as a result of all the bounding, hurdling and plyometric work involved. His rate of progress was astounding, placing seventh at the World Championships after clocking 48.64 in his semi. Even more satisfying was his performance in the relay where he sped around the second lap in 44.60 and took home a silver medal in the European record time of 2:58.86.

His Army career was going well also, promoted to Warrant Officer at 29, and great things were expected on the track in 1988, particularly after winning the AAA 400m title in 44.93, achieving his long-held ambition of breaking 45. However, he had to wait until 1990 for the major breakthrough at hurdles. Following victory in the Commonwealth Games he ran 47.92 to win the European title, breaking David Hemery's UK (and former world) record of 48.12 – a bonus which sent him into a frenzy of excitement adding to his reputation of being among the most extrovert of athletes. His infectious laugh had already become a legendary feature of British athletics. Three days later came another gold medal in the relay in a European record of 2:58.22.

Akabusi's knack of always being in top form for the big occasions continued at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo. He lowered the UK record to 47.86 for bronze. Better still was the relay, where following commendable runs by Roger Black, Derek Redmond and John Regis, he took over three metres behind the new world 400m champion Antonio Pettigrew. Akabusi rose to the formidable challenge in magnificent fashion and his team achieved a famous victory over the Americans in a European record of 2:57.53.

The 1992 Olympics proved a fitting climax to his career. Once more he hit his peak at just the right time, trimming his British record to 47.82 for third place behind Kevin Young's phenomenal world record of 46.78. Akabusi now owned the five fastest ever times by a Briton ... and even now, all these years later, he still holds the British record.

There was a poignant occasion at the Birmingham Diamond League meeting in June 2016 when a richly deserved presentation was made to Bud Baldaro marking his retirement from his role as national coach mentor at England Athletics.

Although he was an enthusiastic schoolboy cross country runner in Birmingham, football was his passion... until as a 17-year-old he watched Ron Clarke shatter the world record for 3 miles at the 1965 AAA Championships. He was hooked.

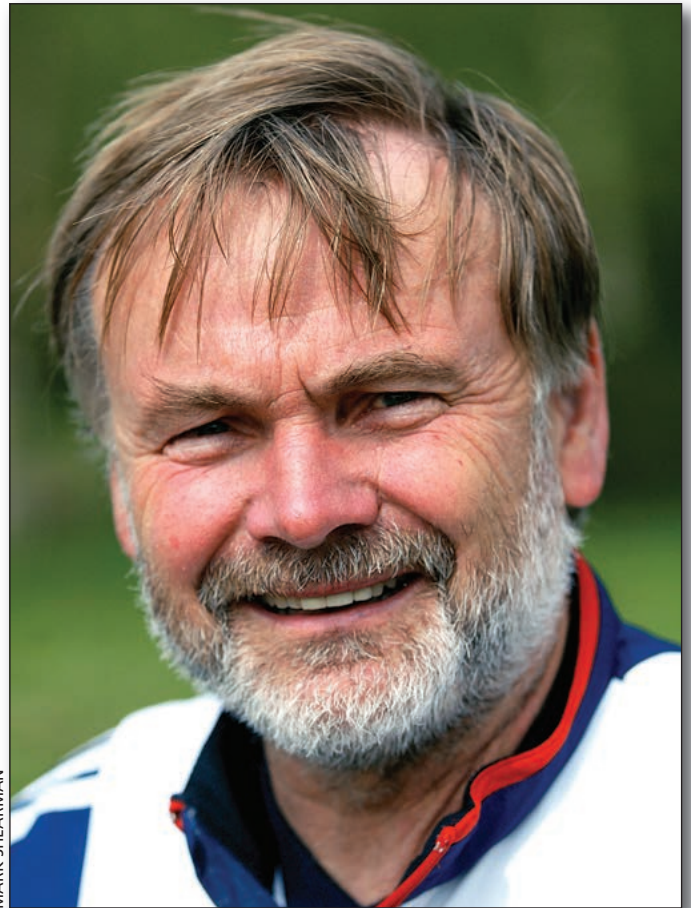
A decent runner himself, primarily for Tipton Harriers, it was as a coach that Baldaro made an indelible impression. While an English teacher at Wednesfield High School, Wolverhampton, he made sure his most talented athletes joined Tipton, one of them being Tony Milovsorov. He began coaching him in 1977, guiding him 12 years later to sixth in the London Marathon in under 2:10.

After taking early retirement as a teacher, Baldaro became the endurance coach at the University of Birmingham as well as holding such key posts as national cross country and marathon coach. He became well known as a commentator at the National cross country championships and road relays. Under his guidance Tipton collected numerous national titles.

It's difficult to keep track of them all but Baldaro has coached at least 50 runners to international class, all of whom are united in their respect, admiration and affection for their mentor. One of his early successes was Lisa York, the inspiration for Kelly Holmes to resume her dormant athletics career after seeing her, a former schoolgirl rival, competing in the 1992 Olympic 3000m. He was coach to three-time Chicago winner Marian Sutton when in 1999 she ran her fastest marathon of 2:28:42, while among the top class steeplechasers he trained were 8:18 performer Eddie Wedderburn, four-time UK champion Luke Gunn and former British record holder Hatti Archer (née Dean). Bev Hartigan (née Nicholson) was Commonwealth Games 1500m bronze medallist in 1990 while his greatest coaching success has been Hannah England, silver medallist at 1500m in the 2011 World Championships, who that year ran 4:01.89.

In 2009 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease but has continued to coach at the highest level as well as organising charity events which have raised tens of thousands of pounds for research into the condition. Two of his athletes made the British team for the 2016 European Championships: Alison Leonard in the 800m and Sarah McDonald in the 1500m.

As Luke Gunn, now head of athletics at the University of Birmingham, said: "Bud is an incredibly humble and unassuming coach, and has an incredible way with people, especially young athletes. He is patient, kind and so supportive. Over the years this has meant that he has often got commitment and indeed performances out of people that they never even knew possible. Long may this truly brilliant yet modest man be within the sport, singing 'The Sun Has Got His Hat On' at every training session."



MARK SHEARMAN

BUD BALDARO

Born: 5.9.1947, Birmingham

Club: Tipton Harriers

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2016



MARK SHEARMAN

JUDY OAKES

Born: 14.2.1958, Lewisham (London)

Club: Croydon Harriers

Major medals: Gold – 1982, 1994 & 1998 Commonwealth; Silver – 1986 & 1990 Commonwealth; Bronze – 1978 Commonwealth, 1979 European Indoor

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2016

Judy Oakes was a trailblazer in British shot putting, in 1986 she became the first to reach 19 metres. Two years later she raised the UK record to 19.36 and there it has remained ever since. Since the start of the 21st century no Briton has reached even 18 metres in official competition.

Judy's lengthy career was remarkable in many ways. She contested six Commonwealth Games, winning a medal each time – an unprecedented achievement. She was only 20 when she placed third in Edmonton (Canada) in 1978 and went on to win in Brisbane in 1982, finish second in Edinburgh in 1986 and Auckland in 1990, and strike gold again in Victoria (Canada) in 1994 and, aged 40, in Kuala Lumpur in 1998. That defeat in Edinburgh particularly rankles as the winner, Gael Martin, served an 18-month drugs ban and in 1988 admitted to an Australian Senate committee inquiry into drugs in sport that she had taken anabolic steroids. It was Martin also who in effect deprived Judy of an Olympic medal in 1984, for in Los Angeles – which was boycotted by the Soviet and East German teams – the Australian placed third and Judy fourth.

It was Judy's misfortune her career coincided with doping in her event. For example, in 1987 no fewer than 23 women put the shot beyond 20 metres, whereas in 2014 there were two and in 2015 three. Judy's longest ever throw of 19.36 ranked her 32nd in the world in 1988, in 2015 the distance would have placed fifth on the world list. Physically she was dwarfed by her predominantly East European rivals but her level of performance was remarkable.

It was never a level playing field for her but Judy went on to make her mark as, pound for pound, probably the world's most proficient shot putter. Her role model was her coach Mike Winch (a 20.43 performer in 1974) who, she noted, "proved that you can be a world class thrower by using technique and explosiveness rather than bulk."

Domestically, she reigned supreme for many years, collecting a record 35 Women's AAA titles (indoors and out) between 1977 and 2000, when she was aged 42. To mark that final victory, at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium, she was rewarded with a standing ovation from the crowd as she took a well-deserved lap of honour. Also that year she was awarded the OBE for her services to athletics, having received the MBE in 1988. By the time she retired she had represented the UK on a record 87 occasions.

Although weighing only 77kg at the time, Judy won Britain's Strongest Woman title in 1983 and went on to become a world powerlifting and European weightlifting champion. She has also been an outspoken campaigner for athletes' rights and raising the status of field events.

A serious kidney disease contracted when he was five confined him to bed for several years, but he had recovered by the age of 11, and by 15 he was All England Schools 100yds Champion.

At the age of 18, coached by Bill Marlow, Radford finished 4th in his first international - the 100 yards at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff and assisted England to victory in the relay. At the European Championships he took third in the 100m final, and in a match against France in Paris he set UK (and world junior) records of 10.29 for 100m and 20.8 for 200m. Whilst still 18 years old he held British Records in all indoor and outdoor sprint distances up to and including 300 yards. Radford improved these several times in the coming years, and in 1960 broke Harry Hutchens' 300 yards record, set in 1884, with 29.9.

On 28 May 1960 came World Records for the 220 yards and 200m at Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton. This memorable afternoon was as follows: 2.30 – 100 yards heat in 9.4, equalling the European record and only a tenth outside the world record; 3.30 – 100 yards final in a wind assisted 9.3; 4.30 – 220 yards heat in 23.2; 5.00 – 220 yards final in a world record 20.5, also a world record for 200m. Radford, at 20, became the first British-born sprinter to set a world record since Willie Applegarth in 1914.

Over 100m he came close to Olympic gold medal in Rome. He was last away but caught the field over the final 30-40m and was still gaining rapidly at the finish, finishing third in a UK record equalling 10.3. It was, Radford has said, a "race that I not only *could*, but *should* have won." He later joined forces with David Jones, Dave Segal and Nick Whitehead for bronze medals in the sprint relay. In 1963 Radford helped create a world 4x110 yards relay record of 40.0 alongside Ron Jones, David Jones and Berwyn Jones, in defeating the USA at White City stadium.

His important contribution to the sport did not end with his retirement from sprinting. He served as Vice-Chairman, Chairman and Executive Chairman of the national governing body, the British Athletics Federation, from 1992 to 1997. A strong campaigner against performance enhancing drugs, in 1995 he addressed the IAAF Congress to oppose the IAAF Council's lenient position on sanctions, and argued for the need for serious doping offenders to be banned for life. He chaired the Council of Europe's International Anti-Doping Convention Group for four years. Radford has also been Professor of Sports Sciences at the University of Glasgow and Brunel University. He is a notable athletics historian, writing a well received biography of the celebrated early 19th century long distance athlete Captain Barclay in 2001. In 2016 he was the author of a booklet – "1866 and all that" – published by England Athletics to mark the 150th anniversary of the world's first national athletics championships. He is acknowledged as THE expert on 18th century athletics and since 2009 has been President of the National Union of Track Statisticians (NUTS).



MARK SHEARMAN

PETER RADFORD

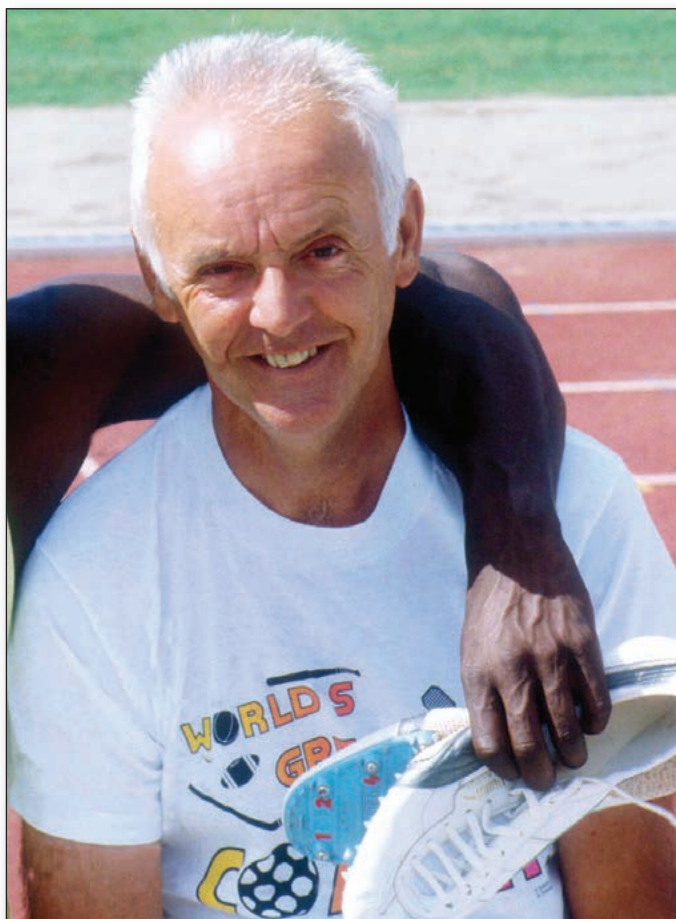
Born: 20.9.1939, Walsall

Club: Birchfield Harriers

Major medals: Gold – 1958 & 1962 Commonwealth 4x110y; Silver – 1958 European 4x100m; Bronze – 1958 European 100m, 1960 Olympic 100m & 4x100m

World records: 200m & 220 yards – 20.5 in 1960; 4x110y – 40.0 in 1963

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2016



MARK SHEARMAN

RON RODDAN

Born: 8.5.1931, Crewe

Club: Thames Valley Harriers

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2016



As an athlete with Thames Valley Harriers, which he joined in 1947, he was a decent club sprinter who was a medallist at the Middlesex Championships and whose best result was a 50.2 quarter-mile. But as a sprints coach Ron Roddan became a legend. Since he began coaching in 1964 he has guided more than 30 athletes to international status, the most celebrated of course being Linford Christie.

Born in Crewe, Roddan was aged six when in 1937 his family moved to London. As a runner he started at the middle distances, dropping down to the sprints in his early twenties. His transition to training other sprinters was not planned. His own coach retired due to health problems and Roddan, then in his early thirties, was urged by his team-mates to take over. "Initially, I carried on with what my coach had taught us, but then I went on courses, met other coaches and began to put my own ideas to work."

He was not a professional coach. He worked as an engineer for 15 years, with two years out for national service in the Army, and then was a Geological Society laboratory technician until he was made redundant in 1990. But he always found time to coach, initially at Alperton, then at West London (later Linford Christie) Stadium, and he derived as much satisfaction from helping the less talented to improve as with those who reached the top. "My athletes getting PBs or just running better than they thought they were capable of... those moments make me feel that it is all worthwhile."

A quiet man, Roddan was always respected by those he advised – a father figure to them. "I'm not pushy. I'm the opposite to what most sprinters are. They're brash, loud and extroverted. I don't know what it is but I just seem to be approachable."

His first major successes were Mick Hauck, who developed into a 46.75 400m performer, and Dick Steane, who set a British 200m record of 20.66 at the Mexico City Olympics. Many more followed before that day in 1979 when a 19 year-old by the name of Linford Christie approached Roddan. He had placed second in the English Schools 200m and his best times were 10.7 and 21.8. Christie had talent but in those early days lacked self-discipline. "He just wouldn't come training and only did when he felt like it," Roddan recalled.

Following the 1984 season, by which time Christie's PBs were 10.44 and 21.38, Roddan gave him an ultimatum on the lines of "either work seriously or don't waste my time." That was the turning point. In 1985 he clocked a wind assisted 10.20 and early in 1986 he won his first international title, the 200m at the European Indoor Championships. Later that year he succeeded Allan Wells as UK record holder for 100m and the rest is history, a brilliant career climaxed by Olympic (1992) and World (1993) titles. The Roddan legacy lives on as, having learned so much from his mentor, Christie is himself a highly successful coach these days.

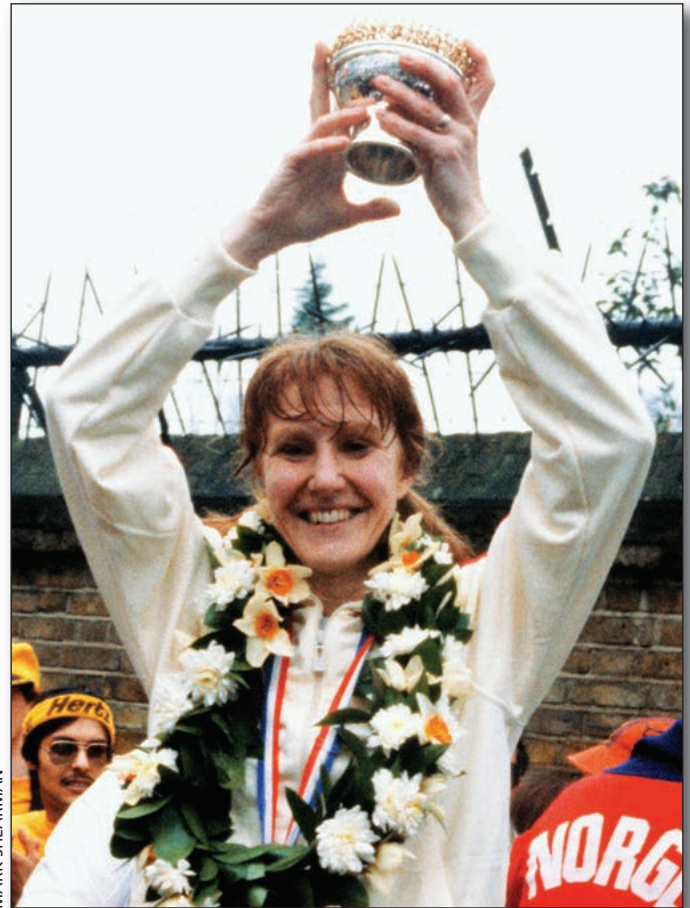
Other athletes may have clocked faster times and claimed more titles, but nothing compares with Joyce Smith's record of sustained top-class achievement in a career of such prodigious length. As a teenager in 1956 she gained her first international badge, as reserve for the England cross country team. In 1980, aged 43, she became the world's third fastest ever marathon runner! Joyce represented Britain at 800m, set UK records at 1500m, broken a world record and won a European bronze medal in the 3000m, and scored great international victories at cross country and marathon running.

It was as a sprinter and long jumper that Joyce Byatt began her athletics career. It was when her then boyfriend, Bryan Smith, started coaching her in 1958 that her career really took off; in less than a year she was English cross country champion. Joyce retained that title in 1960, shortly before becoming Mrs Smith, and made her international debut at 800m.

For several years she was content to be a club runner, and with the birth of Lisa in 1968 she could have decided that, at 30, her racing career was over. On the contrary, she excelled by placing third in the 1971 International Cross Country Championship. That summer she moved up to 3000m and clocked an unofficial world record of 9:23.4 in a then undeveloped event. The following year she became the first British winner of the women's International cross country title and made the Munich Olympic team at 1500m, setting a UK record of 4:09. That time would have been a world record at the start of 1972, but the event had moved on ... and so did Joyce. In 1974 she improved her UK 3000m record to 8:55.53, took the bronze medal at the European Championships and was voted UK woman athlete of the year by the British Athletics Writers' Association.

Lia was born in 1976, and although Joyce represented Britain at 3000m in 1978 she was no longer enjoying track racing. Her real career, on the road, was just about to start at the age of 41. Her initial marathon aim was to break 2:50, the British best standing at 2:50:54. In fact she ran 2:41:37 in her debut in June 1979 and three months later improved to 2:36:27, a Commonwealth record and world veterans best. In November 1980 she won her second Tokyo marathon in 2:30:27, quickest ever in a women-only race. It was a sobering thought that she was now faster than another legendary veteran, Hall of Fame inductee Jack Holden.

An even greater race came next: the inaugural London Marathon in March 1981. She received a tremendous ovation throughout, which helped lift her to new heights – breaking through the 2:30 barrier with the glorious figures of 2:29:57. In London the following year she ran faster still with 2:29:43, at 44 becoming the oldest athlete ever to set a British record. She continued to compete with distinction, including 11th place in the inaugural Olympic race in Los Angeles in 1984, the year she was awarded the MBE.



MARK SHEARMAN

JOYCE SMITH

Born: 26.10.1937, Stoke Newington (London)

Clubs: Hampstead Harriers, Barnet AC

Major medals: Gold – 1972 International Cross Country; Silver – 1973 World Cross Country; Bronze – 1971 International Cross Country, 1974 European 3000m

World records: 3000m – 9:23.4 in 1971

Inducted into Hall of Fame: 2016

TOKYO MEN'S 4x400m RELAY TEAM

ROGER BLACK

Born: 31.3.1966, Portsmouth

Club: Team Solent

400m PB: 44.59 (1986); improved to 44.37 in 1996

DEREK REDMOND

Born: 3.9.1965, Bletchley

Club: Birchfield

400m PB: 44.50 (1987)

JOHN REGIS

Born: 13.10.1966, Lewisham (London)

Club: Belgrave

400m PB: 46.57 (1988); improved to 45.48 in 1993

KRISS AKABUSI

Born: 28.11.1958, Paddington (London)

Club: Team Solent

400m PB: 44.93 (1988)

ADE MAFE (ran in heat)

Born: 12.11.1966, Islington (London)

Club: London Irish

400m PB: 45.65 (1991); improved to 45.30 in 1993

MARK RICHARDSON (ran in heat)

Born: 26.7.1972, Slough

Club: Windsor Slough & Eton

400m PB: 45.53 (1991); improved to 44.37 in 1998

There could not have been a more rousing finale to the magnificent 1991 World Championships in Tokyo than the 4x400m relay. It was a mind-blowing, excruciating, joyous race for the British camp... for the Americans it was just mind-blowing and excruciating.

The heats provided an indication of the epic to come. The US foursome won their heat in 2:59.55 but the British set down their marker when Ade Mafe (46.1), Derek Redmond (44.5), the junior Mark Richardson (44.8) and Kriss Akabusi (44.1) took theirs in 2:59.49.

For the final the next day the Americans would bring in Andrew Valmon and the newly crowned 400m champion Antonio Pettigrew, while the British team would be strengthened by the inclusion of Roger Black and John Regis.

The first sensation of the race occurred when the first-leg runners came out to try their blocks... for there was Black, traditionally the anchorman. As Akabusi explained later: "The reason why Roger was on the lead-off leg is because we had to neutralise the American strength." It was a gamble, the plan being that Black would build up such a lead that the Americans would never get back on level terms.

That didn't quite come off, for although Black ran a splendid 44.7 leg his lead over Valmon (44.9) was less than two metres. On the second leg Redmond excelled himself with a 44.0 split but Quincy Watts came up with one of the fastest ever relay legs of 43.4 to build up a lead of almost four metres. It looked as though the British plan had misfired.

Next to go was Regis, primarily a great 200m runner who had produced an inspired 43.93 split in Split at the European Championships the year before. He didn't quite reproduce that, but a 44.22 clocking narrowed the deficit slightly against Danny Everett's 44.31.

Thus Akabusi took over for the anchor a daunting three metres behind Pettigrew. For him, a hurdler, to anchor the squad was a very special honour and it brought out all his tenacity and competitiveness, as Pettigrew found to his cost. Akabusi closed the gap, swung out to challenge the American and miraculously found the very last ounce of speed and strength to edge past some four strides from the line. His split was 44.59 to Pettigrew's 44.93 and the British team had won a famous victory by 4/100ths in 2:57.53, a European and Commonwealth record. It was the greatest GB triumph in this event since the Americans were upset in the 1936 Olympics. What a race!

As Akabusi remarked: "The guys before me did everything right; it was a big occasion and we had to grab it." Chief Coach Frank Dick explained the strategy: "We worked out the best way to tackle the Americans and decided to pressurise them. They are not used to pressure because they are usually well out in front. And didn't it work?"



MARK SHEARMAN

Left to right: Derek Redmond, Kriss Akabusi, John Regis and Roger Black.



MARK SHEARMAN

Derek Redmond takes over from Roger Black for the start of the second leg of the final.



MARK SHEARMAN

John Regis hands over to Kriss Akabusi for the last leg of the final, still 3m behind the American Pettigrew.

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.



JOAN ALLISON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

One of Britain's best middle distance runners. She contested the 1968 and 1972 Olympics and claimed Commonwealth silver at 1500m in 1970 and 1974. In 1973 came a 4:36.2 British mile record. Then came successes of a different kind. Joan was British women's team manager at the 1990 Europeans and 1991 World Championships. In 1992 she was promoted to manage the entire British athletics Olympic team, an historic breakthrough.



MALCOLM ARNOLD

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

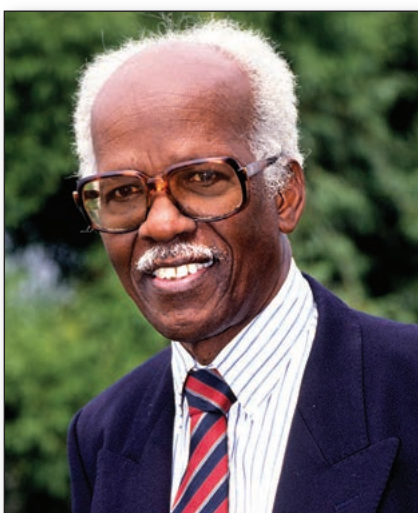
A distinguished coaching career has seen him guide five athletes to becoming Olympic or world champion. Appointed Welsh National Coach in 1974, a position he held for 20 years. He has served as British Athletics Head Coach, UK Athletics Performance Director, UKA Senior Performance Coach and National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



MCDONALD BAILEY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

If any sprinter personified 'poetry in motion' it was 'Mac' Bailey. In 1946 he clocked a breathtaking 10.3 100m in Sweden – just a 0.1sec outside the world record first set by Jesse Owens. His share of the world record duly came with 10.2 in 1951. 'Mac' was third at the 1952 Olympics just 4/100ths behind the winner – the only medallist who did not lunge for the line. Bailey wound up his long career in 1953, shortly after gaining an incredible seventh AAA sprint double.



SIR ROGER BANNISTER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

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



MARK SHEARMAN

ROGER BLACK

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

In 1986 Black won the Commonwealth 400m title in Edinburgh and European Championships gold with 44.59 to better Derek Redmond's UK record. Despite an injury peppered career at the 1991 Tokyo World Championships he clocked 44.62 for the silver medal, and ran the first leg as Britain bettered the Americans in a memorable 4 x 400m. In 1996 he regained the UK record with 44.39 and then 44.37 before taking another Olympic silver.



MARK SHEARMAN

LILLIAN BOARD

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

In 1968 Board was edged out of Olympic gold at 400 by 0.09sec by France's Colette Besson. Aged just 19 she'd run 52.12 to break Ann Packer's UK record and lie fourth on the world all-time list. In 1969 came two stunning golds at the European Championships. A majestic championship record of 2:01.4 at 800 was followed by a thrilling 4x400m relay when she overhauled Besson to anchor Britain to a world record 3:30.8. Board tragically died of cancer the following year having barely begun to fulfil her incredible talent.



MARK SHEARMAN

CHRIS BRASHER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

An incredibly diverse contributor to athletics. He was a pacemaker when Sir Roger Bannister ran the first sub 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.



MARK SHEARMAN

GEORGE BUNNER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

George Bunner is creator of Sportshall, which since 1976 has seen thousands of youngsters, including many future stars, given a first taste of athletics. The former AAA Junior 880 yards champion is a leading authority on children's athletics. Among his initiatives are the AAA Tom Pink Relays, World Marathon Challenge and, recently, the Med Ball Challenge, to introduce throws events to children.



LORD BURGHEY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

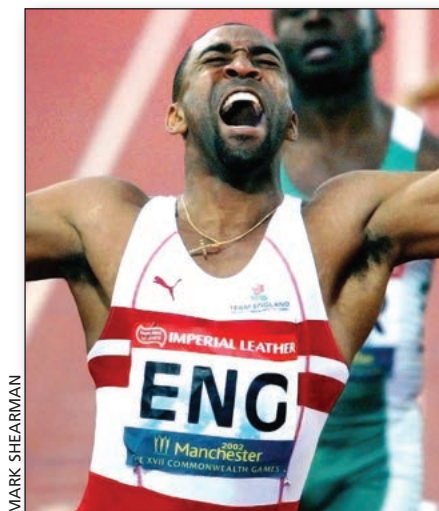
Lord Burghley won Olympic gold. He held British records at 120, 220 and 440 yard hurdles. In 1927 he shared the world record for 440 yard hurdles. He won the 120 yards and 440 yards hurdles at the Empire Games in 1930. Off the track he gave great service with the International Olympic Committee, AAA,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



GUY BUTLER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

Britain's most bemedalled Olympic athlete of all-time, jointly since 1984 with Seb Coe. He won four Olympic medals as a 400m and 4x400m relay runner in the Games of 1920 and 1924, including a gold in the 1920 relay. Silver at 400m and gold at 4 x 400m in the 1920 Olympics were followed by 400m bronze behind Eric Liddell and a 4 x 400m bronze in Paris in 1924.



MARK SHEARMAN

DARREN CAMPBELL

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

Uniquely among British male sprinters, Darren Campbell won global medals in all three outdoor sprinting events: gold in the 4x100m relay (2004 Olympics), silver in the 200m (2000 Olympics) and bronze in the 100m (2003 World Championships).

He won the 1998 European 100m title and bronze in 2002 in the Commonwealth Games 200m and European Championships 100m.



MARK SHEARMAN

DIANE CHARLES (LEATHER)

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

Diane Leather first smashed the world best for the mile in 1953. In 1954 the Birchfield Harrier broke the 5min barrier with 4:59.6. In June 1954 she set a world 880 yards record of 2:09.0 and in August she finished second in the inaugural European 800m championship a feat repeated four year's later. Diane further reduced the mile record in 1955.



MARK SHEARMAN

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.



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.

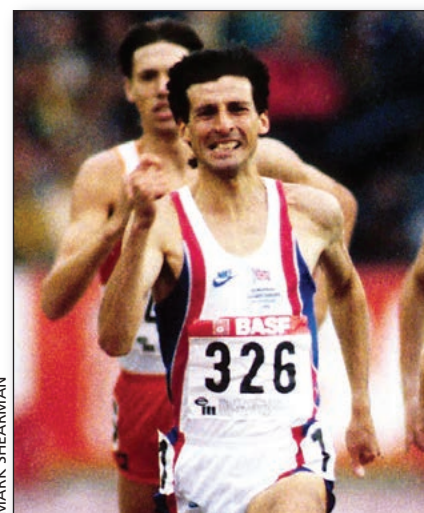


MARK SHEARMAN

PETER COE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

Peter Coe famously turned his skills as an engineer, his self-taught knowledge of bio-mechanics and intensive research into training methods to develop into one of the most knowledgeable, analytical and respected of coaches. Allied to the exceptional ability and capacity for hard work of his son, Seb, theirs became one of the most celebrated partnerships in athletics. Although he is celebrated for coaching one exceptional athlete, he did train others, including 1984 Olympic 3000m silver medallist Wendy Sly.



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 and Paralympics to England. He is now President of the IAAF.



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

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 UK 200m record (22.10 in 1984) lasted until 2015, while her 100m (11.10 in 1981) and 400m (49.43 in 1984) lasted until 2008 and 2013.



MURIEL CORNELL

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

A Silver medal at the 1926 Women's World Games Long Jump was repeated four year's later and Muriel Cornell also set World records/bests over 80m hurdles (12.2 in 1930) and Long Jump (5.48 & 5.57 in 1926, 5.57 in 1927).

In 1928 she defeated Japan's world record holder Kinue Hitomi at the WAAA champs and in 1930 she improved her European Record to 5.80m, the first 19ft jump by a European.



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.



MARK SHEARMAN

DANNY CRATES

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

After losing his right arm in a car crash in 1994 Danny Crates returned to the sport of his youth, athletics, and achieved greatness. Coached by Ayo Falola he took 400m bronze in the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games. In 2001 he tried the 800m, promptly ran under two minutes and did so again and again. The Athens 2004 Paralympic T46 800m final saw him accelerate away to gold. The IPC World Championships gold and world records followed underlining his position as the dominant force in T46 800m.



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 a further world title in 2001. From 2017 will be Eurosport's lead presenter.

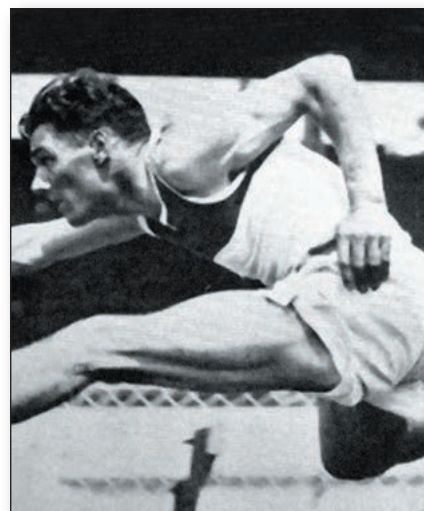


MARK SHEARMAN

PETER ELLIOTT

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

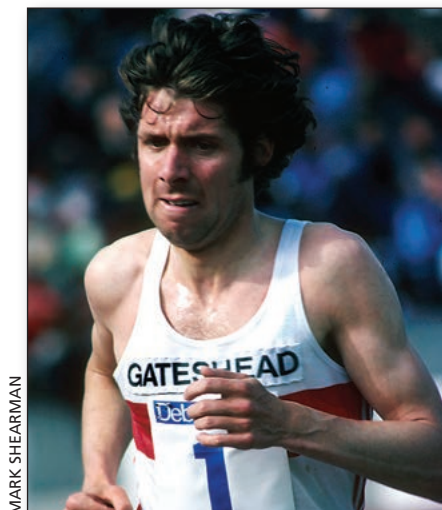
Peter Elliott was a no-nonsense athlete. After breaking Steve Ovett's UK teenage best in winning the 1982 AAA 800m in 1:45.61 he ran the first leg in a successful 4x800m world record relay. Silvers came at the European Indoor Championships in 1983 and the World Championships in 1987 and, despite battling injury, in the 1988 Olympic 1500. Gold finally came at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, soon followed by UK indoor records of 3:36.13 and 3:52.02 and a world indoor 1500m record of 3:34.20.



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!



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.



MARK SHEARMAN

GEORGE GANDY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

George Gandy has been a key factor in the athletics successes of Loughborough University. In addition to current successes those who have come under his influence include Sebastian Coe, who was introduced to circuit training by Gandy, twice Olympic fourth placer Jon Brown, 1986 European 5000m champion Jack Buckner, 2009 World 1500m silver medallist Lisa Dobriskey, former UK 400m record holder Michelle Scutt and 3:50.64 miler Graham Williamson.



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

SIR ARTHUR GOLD

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

An international high jumper, he became among the pioneers of British coaching. His most notable coaching success was with legendary high jumper Dorothy Tyler in the early 1950s. As an administrator he filled practically every post of significance in British and English athletics, as well as being president of the European Athletic Association from 1976 to 1987. He was determined to protect athletics from the dangers of drug use and over commercialisation.



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. She is the only woman to hold Commonwealth, World, Olympic and European titles at same time.



PROF. SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

Ludwig Guttman was the father of the Paralympics. As Director of the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville he inaugurated the first Stoke Mandeville Games held on 28 July 1948, the opening day of the London Olympics. He believed patients could benefit by taking up sport and from this belief he built the Paralympic movement.



MARK SHEARMAN

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.



MARK SHEARMAN

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.

MARK SHEARMAN



ASHIA HANSEN

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

Ashia Hansen proved herself one of the world's greatest ever triple jumpers with six major titles between 1998 and 2003, including a world indoor record of 15.16m in 1998.

She started her medal collection with silver at the 1997 World Indoors and at that year's Grand Prix Final she won with a magnificent 15.15m.

Who knows what more she would have achieved but for a seemingly endless series of serious injuries?

MARK SHEARMAN



BASIL HEATLEY

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

Heatley won the English cross country title in 1960, 1961 and 1963, and finished first in the International Cross Country Championship by 23sec in 1961. In the 1961 AAA 10 mile championship he knocked 25 sec off Emil Zátopek's world record with a time of 47:47.0. In the 1964 Polytechnic Marathon Heatley passed Ron Hill for the lead and came home 100 yards ahead in a world record 2:13:55. Four months later, in Tokyo, he became the fourth Briton to earn an Olympic marathon silver medal.

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.

MARK SHEARMAN



RON HILL

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

Dr Ron Hill MBE secured marathon gold medals at the European and Commonwealth Championships, a Boston Marathon title as well as world records at 10 miles (47:02.2 & 46:44.), 15 miles (1:12:48.2) and 25,000m (1:15:22.6) with a world bests for 20 miles (1:40:55 & 1:36:28). But he also remains a folklore figure among club runners for having covered at least a mile every day for 50 years as well as his innovations in athletics clothing.



JACK HOLDEN

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

The holder of the most distinguished record in British cross country history: English champion in 1938 and 1939; International champion in 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1939. In 1950, 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. The Empire Games were won by over four minutes despite running last nine miles barefoot after discarding his rain-sodden plimsolls.



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.



MARK SHEARMAN

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.



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.



MARK SHEARMAN

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.

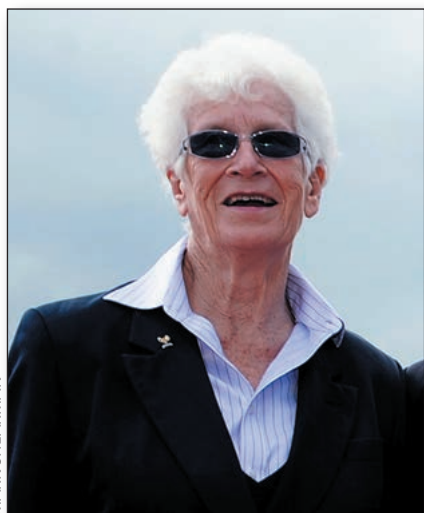


JOHN LE MASURIER

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 Coach from 1961-1978.

MARK SHEARMAN



SHEILA LERWILL

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

Sheila Lerwill (née Alexander), held the world record at 1.72m from 1951 to 1954 and, coached by George Pallett, and was a pioneer among female straddle jumpers. Her 1.72m leap added a centimetre to the world record which had been held by Holland's legendary Fanny Blankers-Koen since 1943. A 1950 European Champion, Sheila also claimed silver at the 1952 Olympics despite suffering a high temperature, cough and a calf bleeding from a spike scratch.

MARK SHEARMAN



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.

MARK SHEARMAN



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.



DOUGLAS LOWE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012

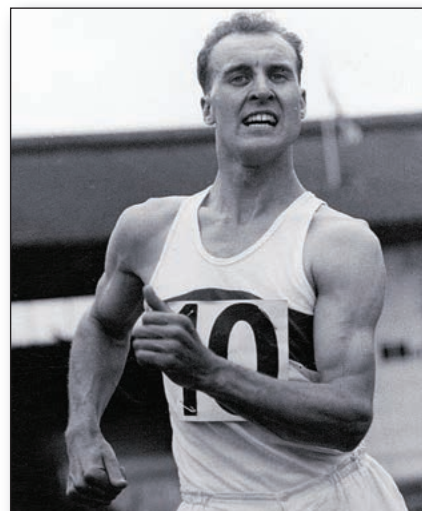
Douglas Lowe became Olympic 800m champion in 1924 and four years later became the first man to win a second Olympic gold at the distance. His Paris time of 1:52.4 took a second off the British record. In 1928 Lowe won by a full second in the Olympic and British record time of 1:51.8. Lowe's last race 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.



BOB MATTHEWS

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014

Bob Matthews' first Paralympic Games were at goalball (an indoor team sport specifically for visually-impaired athletes) in Arnhem in 1980. He transitioned to athletics and amassed an incredible 29 international gold medals with nine silver medals and six bronze competing at distances from 400m to marathon. He set 22 world records and went on to compete internationally at cycling and triathlon in his adopted New Zealand.



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.

MARK SHEARMAN



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 he 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 Chief Executive Officer of UK Athletics from 1999 until 2007.



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!

MARK SHEARMAN



STEVE OVETT

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

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

MARK SHEARMAN



ANN PACKER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

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

MARK SHEARMAN

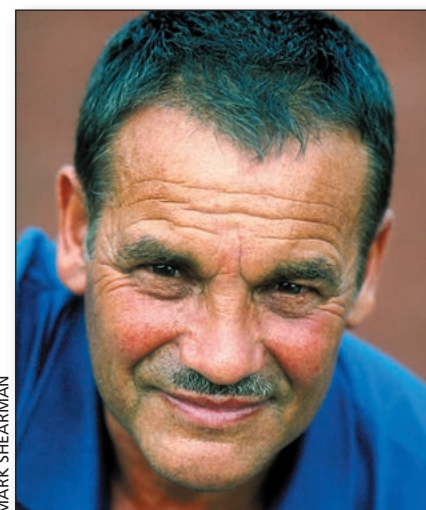


ALAN PASCOE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

Alan Pascoe collected European and Commonwealth gold, silver and bronze 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. A world class competitor, British team captain, teacher, college PE lecturer, meeting promoter, athletes' representative on the British Board, Sports Council member, TV commentator and expert in sports marketing and sponsorship.

MARK SHEARMAN



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.



JIM PETERS

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

After success at shorter distances Peters debuted at the 1951 Polytechnic Marathon winning by five minutes and smashing the British record. He then sliced five minutes off the world record with 2:20:43! In 1953 Peters set 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. Peters famously collapsed just shy of the line and 1954 Commonwealth title.



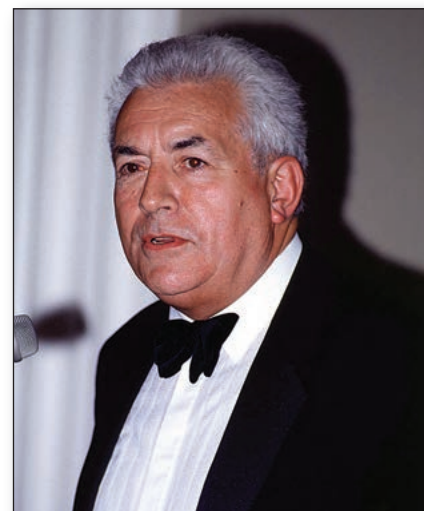
MARK SHEARMAN

JEAN PICKERING

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2011

Jean Desforges won 19 times in British colours claiming five international championship medals including the European long jump title in 1954. 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.



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, until her death in 2013, ran the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund with son Shaun.



GORDON PIRIE

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

The range of Pirie's talent became apparent in 1953 - he won the first of three consecutive English cross country titles and outkicked 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. In 1956 Pirie clocked a staggering 13:36.8 5,000m world record. Three days later he set a world 3000m record of 7:55.5, a time he later reduced to 7:52.7.



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 outspurred 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.



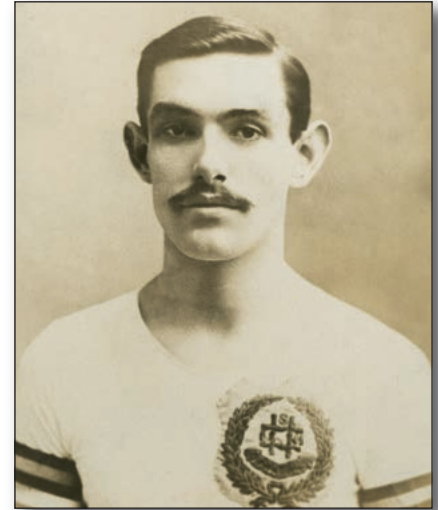
MARK SHEARMAN

TESSA SANDERSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2012

History was made in Los Angeles in 1984 when Tessa Sanderson 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.

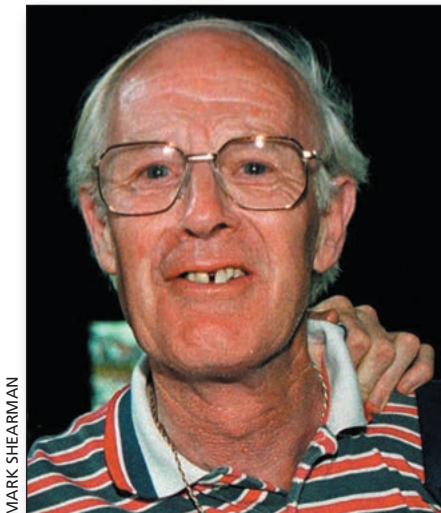
Tessa placed fourth in the 1992 Olympics, and competed in a sixth Olympics in 1996, aged 40.



ALF SHRUBBS

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

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.

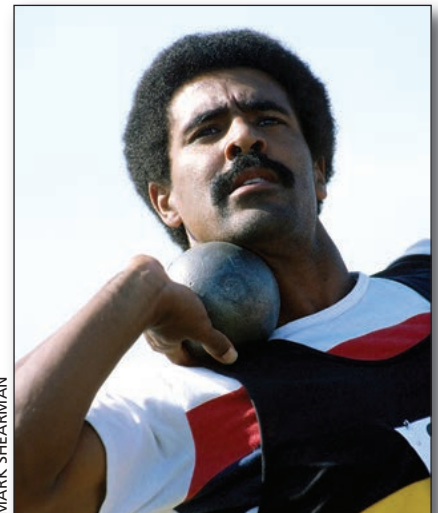


MARK SHEARMAN

NOEL THATCHER

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

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



MARK SHEARMAN

DALEY THOMPSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2008

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

MARK SHEARMAN



DON THOMPSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

Before the 1960 Olympics, in addition to his usual gruelling training, Thompson performed exercises on the spot in his tracksuit in an improvised steam room at with temperatures hovering around the 100°F mark. It worked! At the finish line of Rome he was 17 sec clear in 4:25:30, an Olympic record. Thompson won the classic London to Brighton on eight consecutive occasions with a record of 7:35:12 for the 53 miles 129 yards (86 kilometres) course!

MARK SHEARMAN



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.



EMIL VOIGT

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2015

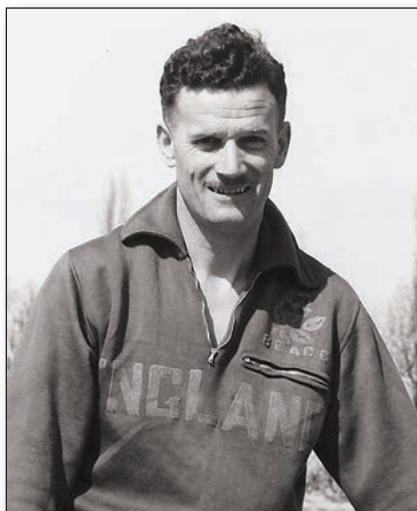
Emil Voigt was the last British athlete to win a long distance running gold medal at the Olympic Games prior to Mo Farah's 2012 double. Voigt's success was 104 years earlier at the first London Olympics where he triumphed in the 5 mile event in a time of 25:11.2. This came despite tearing muscles in his foot during his heat and having to improvise a plaster of Paris arch support to be built into his running shoe. He was a class apart, finishing some 70 yards ahead of the field.



MEL WATMAN

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2013

After 60 years of athletics writing, including for Athletics Today, Athletics International, and as freelance for various newspapers and news agencies, Mel Watman is still best known as editor of Athletics Weekly from the 1960s to 1980s. By 1954 he was contributing to AW before joining full time in 1961. In 1968 he succeeded Jimmy Green as editor. He was cofounder of the National Union of Track Statisticians in 1958 and the British Athletics Writers' Association in 1963.



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 Joint AAA Principal Coach until 1978. He coached Dorothy Hyman to Olympic silver (100m) and bronze (200m) in 1960. He coached Tom Farrell (400m hurdles) and Andy Carter (800m) to British records and helped in the development of Lillian Board, and persuaded Ann Packer to move up in distance, leading to her Olympic 800m gold.



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.



MARK SHEARMAN

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.

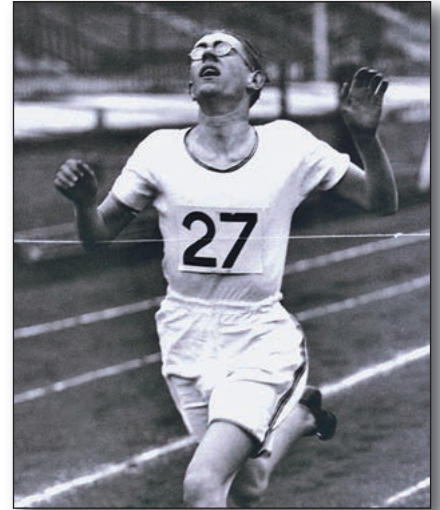


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HAROLD WHITLOCK

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.



SYDNEY WOODERSON

Inducted into Hall of Fame 2009

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




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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 8 – October 2016 – £6 where sold