

## Take a stroll down memory lane with the background to the latest wave of English 'Hall of Famers'

■ **Ann Packer:** Won the 100 yards at the 1959 English Schools, was WAAA long jump champion in 1960 and a finalist in 1962 at 200m in the European Championships and 80m hurdles at the Commonwealth Games. But this was a mere prelude for what was to come because in 1963 she moved up to 400m, with immediate world-class results, and in 1964 she took up the 800m and won Olympic gold in a world record of 2:01.1 to follow her silver in the 400m.

■ **Mary Rand:** In Tokyo in 1964 she set a world long jump record of 6.76m to become the first British female athlete to win an Olympic gold medal. A superb all-rounder, though, 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.

■ **Dorothy Tyler:** Aged 16 and on her first trip abroad, Dorothy Odarn, as she was known, won Olympic high jump silver at the 1936 Olympics. Under today's rules, she would have won gold, but she later went on to win the Empire Games title and



Dorothy Tyler with Mike Summers

Dearnside High AC and has coached a huge number of nationally ranked athletes from the start of their careers.

■ **Services to volunteering (25 plus):** Stephen Jackson

A member of Preston Harriers, he has led the overhauling and restructuring of the club.

■ **Official of the year:** Paul Rutter  
When he passed the advanced-level examination for field officials, he came to the attention of those at the highest level in the sport – and since then he has continued to impress.

# 2009 Hall of Fame inductees

also held the world record. After marriage and an absence of eight years, she later returned to narrowly miss winning the 1948 Olympic title and she retained her Empire Games title after a gap of 12 years. A fine all-rounder, she won the WAAA long jump and pentathlon titles in 1951, setting a British record in the latter. She later became a coach, official and British team manager as well as taking up golf (three times winning the national over-80 title) and in her 90th year maintains a keen interest in athletics.

■ **Alf Shrubb:** Widely regarded as the greatest distance runner of the early 20th century, he was denied Olympic gold in 1904 because Britain did not send a team and was declared professional in 1905. But "The Little Wonder", as he was known, set British records that lasted, literally, decades. His three-mile best survived for 33 years and his one-hour record almost half a century. Took four national and two international cross country titles, too.

■ **Sydney Wooderson:** Frail and bespectacled in appearance, Wooderson was an unlikely looking champion, but he became the darling of the athletics crowds in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1937 he set a world mile record of 4:06.4 off scratch in a handicap race. The following year he broke two world records in one race, clocking 1:48.4 for 800m en route to 1:49.2 for 880 yards. In 1946 he moved up to 5000m and took the European title in 14:08.6, a huge 23 seconds inside the British record. In March 1948 the Blackheath runner, who had at one time or another been the best in the world at 800m, mile and 5000m, became English cross country champion.

■ **Lord Burghley:** The 1928 Olympic 400m hurdles champion also held British records at 120, 220 and 440 yards hurdles. In addition, he won both the 120 and 440 yards hurdles at the inaugural Empire Games in 1930 and later went on to be a formidable administrator. He was chairman of the organising committee for the 1948 London Olympics and president of both the AAA and IAAF. As if that wasn't enough, he was also an IOC member for 48 years.

■ **Steve Backley:** Never won Olympic gold, despite setting an Olympic record in Sydney, but as he said on



Saturday he "sleeps well at night" thanks to his four European titles, three Commonwealth golds and status as a former world record-holder in the javelin.

■ **Steve Cram:** The Jarrow Arrow set world records at 1500m, one mile and 2000m during the Eighties and also took world, European and Commonwealth titles.

■ **Jonathan Edwards:** Still holds the world record for the triple jump, which he set during a memorable 1995 season. The Gateshead athlete also won Olympic gold in 2000, plus world, European and Commonwealth titles – at one period all simultaneously.

■ **Noel Thatcher:** Paralympic great won 42 gold medals in an amazing career as a visually impaired distance runner. He set a world 1500m record at the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992, took a 5000m and 10,000m double at the 1996 Paralympics, with a world record over 25 laps, despite carrying a stress fracture, and a 5000m record at the 2000 Paralympics.

■ **Malcolm Arnold:** After initially coaching John Akii-Bua to Olympic 400m hurdles gold in 1972, Arnold went on to coach a whole host of top British athletes such as Colin Jackson, Jason Gardener and more recently Craig Pickering, Dai Greene and junior Lawrence Clarke. A former chief national coach, he is currently national event coach for hurdles.

■ **Harold Abrahams:** It is 75 years since his 1924 Olympic 100m victory, which was immortalised so memorably in *Chariots of Fire*, but Abrahams, who died shortly before the Oscar-winning film was released, was inducted into the Hall of Fame due to his all-round impact on the sport in England. In addition to being a sprinter, he was an athletics journalist, historian, statistician, radio commentator and for many years a leading administrator and official.

■ **Ron Pickering:** Famous as a coach, teacher and TV commentator, he had one of the most authoritative voices in the sport until his death. Formed a superb partnership with David Coleman on the BBC, but his influence spread far beyond the realms of television and is still having an impact today through a memorial fund which is administered by his widow Jean.



■ **THE inaugural Hall of Fame dinner in 2008 saw the following inducted: Seb Coe, Steve Ovett, Daley Thompson, Roger Bannister, Sally Gunnell, David Hemery and David Holding, plus contributors Chris Brasher, David Coleman and Geoff Dyson**



■ **Services to officiating:** John Lofts  
Started his officiating career in 1957 and is an original member of the South of England Athletics Officials Association. He has continually promoted athletics from school to senior level in track and field and endurance throughout his long and varied career.

■ **Club to community partnership:** Ivanhoe Robins Junior AC  
Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club has developed all aspects of the club and thrives on creative partnerships and relationships with local organisations

to deliver an innovative, exciting, environment, that encourages a "learn and grow" culture.

■ **Services to disability athletics:** Rosalyn Miller

The coach joined Gateshead Harriers in 1996 and since then the club has prospered in the field of disability sports.

■ **Services to athletics:** John and Judy Vernon

The Vernons have been servants to the sport as coaches, administrators, team managers, officials and coach educators – both in London and beyond.