

1925 - INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The inaugural *Schools' Athletic Association Championship* was held on the 19th of September at Crystal Palace. Unfortunately it was a very wet and windy day but this in no way detracted from the event such was the quality of the performances. A handbill for the event described it as “the most important junior sports meeting ever held in London”.

It was an event for schoolchildren of under-14 years of age with 8 track and field events and a tug-of-war for boys and 6 track and field events for girls.

Over 500 children from the 13 invited counties took part in the inaugural championship.

Ticket prices for the event were 1/6 for adults and 9d for children and that included entrance to the Crystal Palace and the stadium as well as transport from Victoria and London Bridge and many other London stations,

COUNTIES

The 13 participating counties were Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, London, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex.

SALUTE / PRESENTATIONS

The event began with an Olympic-style march-past with the salute taken by Admiral Sir Edmund Robert Fremantle, the retired 89-year old later referred to as the “*Father of the Royal Navy*” in *Time* magazine.

The presentations were also made by Admiral Sir Edmund Robert Fremantle who deputised for the 6th Earl Cadogan.

GIRLS RESULTS

100 yards	1	Kathleen Fabb	Cambridgeshire	12.6 secs
	2	H. Piper	Essex	yard
	3	A. Chandler	Berkshire	2 yards
	4	S. Calver	Surrey	
150 yards	1	E. Cutter	Essex	18.9 secs
	2	A. Norris	Surrey	yard
	3	Evelyn Jarrett	Kent	same
	4	B. Argent	Cambridgeshire	
75 yards Hurdles	1	Violet Shillingford	London	13.7 secs
	2	R. Hayden	Surrey	yard
	3	H. Stothart	Essex	same
4 x 110 yards Relay	1	Essex (H. Piper, E. Cutter, Mears, Tavener)		59.2 secs
	2	London (Oakley, Joan Leckenby, Nelson, Rogers)		10 yards
	3	Kent (Evelyn Jarrett, Ivy Court, G. Clarke,		6 yards

		M. Bourne		
	4	Berkshire		
High Jump	1	Mary Poffley	Berkshire	4' 4"
	2	M. Courage	Hampshire	4' 3"
	3	B. Kent	Berkshire	4' 2"
Long Jump	1	Dorothy Moseley	Middlesex	14' 4"
	2	M. Keate	Berkshire	13' 4"
	3	M. Lewis	Middlesex	13' 3"

The metric equivalents for the winning jumps are 1.32m (4' 4") and 4.37m (14' 4").

In her 100 yards heat **Kathleen Fabb (Cambridgeshire)** broke the English under-14 record with a time of 12.5 seconds.

GIRLS TEAM SCORES

POS.	COUNTY	POINTS
1=	Berkshire and Essex	13
3	Surrey	8
4	London	7
5	Middlesex	6
6=	Cambridgeshire and Kent	5
8	Hampshire	3
9=	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Sussex	0

As a result of there being a tie for first place, a toss was held for "possession of the championship shield" and was won by Berkshire.

BOYS RESULTS

100 yards	1	H. Perrott	London	11.6 secs
	2	J. Adams	Kent	1½ yards
	3	J. Fox	Berkshire	inches
	4	G. Reynolds	Essex	
220 yards	1	Maurice Drury	Kent	27.1 secs
	2	F. Edwards	Essex	2 yards
	3	F. Smith	London	same
	4	G. Day	Bedfordshire	
440 yards	1	Jack Barrett	Berkshire	63.8 secs
	2	G. Ratcliffe	London	3 yards
	3	L. Weeks	Kent	same
	4	J. Scott	Essex	
880 yards	1	D. Crowdy	Buckinghamshire	2m 32.2 secs
	2	G. Gilbert	Kent	15 yards
	3	H. Towle	Bedfordshire	yard
	4	W. Mansfield	London	
75 yards Hurdles	1	Clem Kingdom	Essex	12.4 secs
	2	W. Hobbs	Essex	yard
	3	D. Maynard	London	covered
	4	C. Austin	London	first 4
4 x 110 yards Relay	1	London (H. Perrott, D. Ashby, Budd, Smith)		54.6 secs

	2	Berkshire (J. Fox, R. Emmons, H. White, S. Roberts)		3 yards
	3	Kent (Maurice Drury, L. Scott, J. Adams, S. Robinson)		same
High Jump	1	R. Baker	London	4' 7"
	2=	C. Robey	Buckinghamshire	4' 6"
	2=	H. Ganderton	Essex	4' 6"
Long Jump	1	John King	London	17' 2"
	2	A. Pimm	London	16' 9"
	3	W. Cherry	Surrey	16' 3"
Tug-of-War	1	Middlesex		2 pulls to nil
	2	Hertfordshire		

The metric equivalents for the winning jumps are 1.40m (4' 7") and 5.23m (17' 2").

In his 220 yards heat **Maurice Drury (Kent)** broke the English under-14 record with a time of 26.4 seconds.

BOYS TEAM SCORES

POS	COUNTY	POINTS
1	London	30
2=	Essex and Kent	15
4	Berkshire	11
5	Buckinghamshire	6
6	Middlesex	4
7=	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	3
9	Surrey	2
10	Hampshire	1
11=	Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire and Sussex	0

SUMMING UP

Admiral Fremantle rather prophetically summed up the inaugural championship as follows
"Notwithstanding the weather, we have seen enough today to enable us to realise what a great success this Association is to become in the future when other counties are organised and send teams to compete."

Colonel W. K. Duckett, honorary secretary of the *Kent Schools Athletic Association*, said later in the year *"It was an inspiring sight, and it was to his mind those people who without rhyme or reason were always saying 'I don't know what the country is coming to.' If this is what the country is coming to they could be proud of it. If that is what the result of the teachers efforts for the physical, mental and moral welfare of the children entrusted to their charge, they had every reason to be proud it. It was at once their inspiration and reward."*