

ESAA - NORTHUMBERLAND ROLL OF HONOUR

The *Northumberland Schools' Athletic Association* was formed in 1949.

The first county championship was then held on 9th July, 1949 at Gosforth and a team sent to the 1949 ESAA Championship at Carshalton.

They were successful in their first ESAA Championship with Ron Henderson of Wallsend District taking the Boys Junior 880 yards title in a record time of 2 min 9.2 secs.

Northumberland hosted the ESAA Championship for the first time in 1954 when it was held in Ashington. Over 1,700 competitors from 39 counties took part.

OLYMPIC GAMES MEDALLIST

Mike McLeod	1984 10000m Silver 1967 I CC-23
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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLIST

Laura Weightman	2014 and 2018 1500m Bronze 2007 I 1500m-1, 2008 S 1500m-1, 2009 S 1500m-1
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COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDALLISTS

Laura Weightman	2014 1500m Silver, 2018 5000m Bronze 2007 I 1500m-1, 2008 S 1500m-1, 2009 S 1500m-1
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Sally Scott	2014 Pole Vault Bronze 2007 I PV-3
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Bruce Fraser	1970 Hammer Throw Silver 1962 I HT-2, 1963 I HT-1, 1964 S HT-1
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Ian Chipchase	1974 Hammer Throw Gold 1969 S HT-1, 1970 S HT-1
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Mike McLeod	1978 10000m Bronze 1967 I CC-23
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Ian McCombie	1986 and 1990 30k Walk Bronze 1975 J 3k Walk-1, 1976 I 5k Walk-1, 1977 I 5k Walk-1, 1979 S 10k Walk-1
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Mark Hudspith	1994 Marathon Bronze 1987 S 3000m-h-7
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BRITISH CHAMPIONS

Ann Oliver	1953 800m 1953 S 220y-h
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Shirley Webb	2005 Hammer Throw 2000 I HT-2
Sonia Thomas (née Samuels)	2011 10000m 1995 I CC-2
Laura Weightman	2012, 2014, 2017-2018 and 2020 1500m 2007 I 1500m-1, 2008 S 1500m-1, 2009 S 1500m-1
Sarah McDonald	2019 1500m 2011 S 800m-h-4
Ian McCombie	1984 10k Walk, 1985 3k Walk, 1986-1988, 1991 10k Walk 1975 J 3k Walk-1, 1976 I 5k Walk-1, 1977 I 5k Walk-1, 1979 S 10k Walk-1
Nick McCormick	2005 1500m 1998 I 800m-3, 2000 S 1500m-3
Niall S. Flannery	2014 and 2015 400m Hurdles 2007 I 400mH-1, 2008 S 400mH-1, 2009 S 400mH-1

Notes regarding the athlete details shown above :

An entry for each athlete begins with a line (or lines) detailing their Major Championship medal win(s) or their British Championship title win(s). This is followed by a line (or lines) listing their ESAA Championship medal winning performances, or showing a non-medal winning performance, in the abbreviated format – *yyyy a eeee p* where :

yyyy Championship Year

a Age Group (I – Intermediate, J – Junior, S – Senior, pre-1948 the age groups were Under-14 (U14) and Under- 16 (U16))

eeee Event

p Place achieved (note an 'h-' indicates the performance was in a heat and 'r-' indicates it was in a preliminary round)

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ESAA GIRLS CHAMPIONS

1951	I	JT	Jean Elliott
1952	S	JT	Jean Elliott
1952	S	LJ	Sheila Batey
1953	S	JT	Jean Elliott
1957	J	DT	Brenda Reeve
1968	S	DT	Lesley Elliott
1974	J	LJ	Linda Pears
1983	J	CC	Lisa Reilly
1983	J	HJ	Emma Baker
1990	J	CC	Angie Foster
1992	J	1500m	Caroline Wood
1993	J	CC	Justina Heslop
1993	J	75mH	Kate Forsyth
1995	J	CC	Nicola Coates
1995	I	3000m	Kate Grimshaw
1996	J	CC	Carley Wilson
1997	J	800m	Claire Taylor
1997	I	HJ	Emily Jackson
2007	J	75mH	Rebecca Liddell
2007	I	1500m	Laura Weightman
2008	S	100mH	Lauren Dewdney
2008	S	1500m	Laura Weightman
2009	S	1500m	Laura Weightman
2011	J	4x100m	Northumberland
2019	I	100m	Joy Eze
2022	J	SP	Leila Thompson
2024	S	HT	Kaitlyn Waddell
2026	U19	400mH	Senna Gorvett

In 2026 the height of hurdles was changed for certain ages so Under-16 (U16), Under-18 (U18) and Under-19 (U19) races were held.

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ESAA BOYS CHAMPIONS

1949	J	880y	Ron Henderson	1979	S	10k Walk	Ian McCombie
1950	S	100y	Alan Lillington	1983	J	800m	Terry West
1950	S	4x110y	Northumberland	1983	I	800m	Albert James
1952	J	4x110y	Northumberland	1984	S	3000m	David Miles
1963	I	4x110y	Northumberland	1985	S	CC	Sean Cundy
1963	I	HT	Bruce Fraser	1988	S	800m	Terry West
1964	J	HT	Paul Dickenson	1990	J	PV	Chris Eyre
1964	I	880y	Robert Littlefield	1991	S	CC	Ceri Rees
1964	I	HT	Christopher Davison	1992	S	110mH	Kevin Lumsdon
1964	S	HT	Bruce Fraser	1993	J	CC	John Pattison
1965	J	880y	Nick Brown	1993	S	110mH	Kevin Lumsdon
1965	I	HT	Paul Dickenson	1994	I	CC	Robert Brown
1965	S	HJ	Michael Evans	1994	S	110mH	Simon McAree
1966	J	HT	David Rogers	1995	I	100mH	Ben Warmington
1966	J	SP	Malcolm Scott	1995	S	2000mST	Mark McGarry
1966	I	880y	David Wright	1997	J	800m	Ketan Desai
1966	I	HT	Paul Dickenson	1998	S	110mH	Liam Collins
1966	S	HT	Christopher Davison	1999	J	200m	David Riley
1967	S	1M	David Wright	2000	I	100mH	Peter Middleton
1967	S	HT	Paul Dickenson	2004	S	CC	Kirk Wilson
1968	J	HT	Robert Rutherford	2005	S	800m	Kieran Flannery
1968	I	HT	David Rogers	2007	I	CC	Ross Murray
1968	S	HT	Paul Dickenson	2007	I	1500m	Ross Murray
1969	I	SP	William Curley	2007	I	400mH	Niall S Flannery
1969	S	HT	Ian Chipchase	2008	I	PV	Tim Parkin
1970	S	HT	Ian Chipchase	2008	S	400mH	Niall S. Flannery
1972	I	HT	Phil Scott	2009	S	400mH	Niall S. Flannery
1973	J	HT	Stephen Watson	2010	J	LJ	Michael McArdle
1974	J	TJ	William Armstrong	2014	J	1500m	Max Pearson
1975	J	3k Walk	Ian McCombie	2014	I	400mH	Reuben Cole
1975	I	HT	Stephen Watson	2015	I	100mH	Jason Nicholson
1976	J	HJ	Martin Lisle	2018	I	3000m	Sam Charlton
1976	I	5k Walk	Ian McCombie	2019	J	1500m	Joshua Blevins
1976	S	HT	Stephen Watson	2019	I	DT	James Wordsworth
1977	I	5k Walk	Ian McCombie	2019	S	CC	Sam Charlton
1977	S	HT	Stephen Watson	2019	S	400m	Matthew Waterfield
1978	J	LJ	David Conway	2022	J	PEN	Luke Pichler
1978	S	400m	William Armstrong	2025	I	800m	Magnus Riddell

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SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS BOARD (SIAB)

The SIAB hold 2 annual international meetings for school athletes from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These are for *Cross Country* and *Track and Field*. The *Indoor Pentathlon International* (commonly referred to as the *SIAB Indoor Pentathlon*) is actually organised by the *Scottish Schools' Athletic Association (SSAA)*.

A fourth championship, the *British Schools Indoor Athletics Championships* was also held from 1990 to 2000.

GIRLS WINNERS

1983	J	CC	Lisa Reilly	1995	I	3000m	Kate Grimshaw
1990	I	800m	Emma Brady	1995	J	CC	Carley Wilson
1990	J	CC	Angela Foster	1996	I	CC	Nicola Coates
1992	I	CC	Angela Foster	2007	I	1500m	Laura Weightman
1993	J	CC	Justina Heslop	2019	I	100m	Joy Eze
1994	U16	i60mH	Kate Forsyth				

BOYS WINNERS

1963	S	TJ	Malcolm McDonald	1987	I	100mH (B)	Richard Hunter
1964	S	HT	Bruce Fraser	1994	I	CC	Robert Brown
1966	S	HT	Christopher Davison	1998	U16	i800m	Ketan Desai
1967	S	HT	Paul Dickenson	2000	U16	i200m	David Riley
1968	S	HT	Paul Dickenson	2008	I	PV	Tim Parkin
1969	S	HT	Ian Chipchase	2015	I	100mH	Jason Nicholson
1970	S	HT	Ian Chipchase	2018	I	3000m	Sam Charlton
1975	I	HT	Stephen Watson	2019	I	DT	James Wordsworth
1975	I	TJ	William Armstrong	2022	U16	iPEN	Luke Pichler
1986	J	CC	Ceri Madoc Rees	2025	I	800m	Magnus Riddell

Winning performances are shown in the abbreviated format – yyyy a eeee where :

yyyy Championship Year

a Age Group (I – Intermediate, J – Junior, S – Senior, Under-16 (U16), Over-16 (O16) and Under-18 (U18))

eeee Event (preceded by an 'i' indicates at an indoor meeting).

In some events in the 1970s and 1980s two races (A and B) were necessary because of a limited number of lanes at the venue. An '(A)' or '(B)' highlights where this was the case.

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EUROPEAN U23 MEDALLIST - BOYS

2023 Rory Leonard 10000m Gold

EUROPEAN U23 MEDALLIST - GIRLS

Joy Eze (2025 4 x 100m Gold) ran in the relay heat but not in the final.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLIST - GIRLS

2021 Joy Eze 100m Bronze and 4 x 100m Gold
2023 Joy Eze 100m Gold and 4 x 100m Silver

EUROPEAN YOUTH / U18 MEDALLIST - BOYS

2016 Jason Nicholson 110m Hurdles Bronze

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

Many athletes who competed in the English Schools' Athletic Association (ESAA) Championships have become very successful in a wide variety of sports including Bobsleigh, Boxing, Cricket, Cycling, Darts, Football, Hockey, Modern Pentathlon, Netball, Powerlifting, Rowing, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Skeleton, Swimming, Triathlon and Weightlifting.

Details follow of two Northumberland ESAA competitors who went on to have a successful career in other sports :

FOOTBALL – LUCY BRONZE MBE

Lucy represented Northumberland when finishing 16th in the 2006 ESAA Junior Pentathlon. At this time Lucy was captain of the Sunderland FC Under-16 football team.

She played for the Sunderland first team from 2007 to 2010 and then for Everton before signing for Liverpool in 2012. In 2013 Lucy was awarded her first cap for England. Moves to Manchester City (2014) and Olympique Lyonnais (2017) followed. She returned to Manchester City in 2020 and became the first England player to win *The Best FIFA Women's Player Award*.

In 2022 Lucy joined Barcelona and was a member of the England team which won the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 Championship.

As of July 2026, she had amassed 148 caps for England and 4 for Great Britain.

Lucy was awarded the MBE in the 2023 Honours List.

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TRIATHLON - KATE WAUGH

Kate represented Northumberland when finishing 4th in the 2015 ESAA Intermediate Cross Country. She was already competing in triathlon events and was the British Triathlon Female Junior Athlete of the Year that year.

In 2017 she won the European Junior Triathlon title and a silver medal at the World Junior Championships. The World Under-23 title followed in 2022.

Kate competed in the 2024 Olympic Games and finished 15th in the Women's Triathlon.