

ESAA – OXFORDSHIRE ROLL OF HONOUR

The *Oxfordshire Schools' Sports Association* was formed on 5th, December 1925 at a meeting in the County Education Offices in Oxford. In 1926 the Association affiliated to the *English Schools' Athletic Association* and held its first County Championship at Witney on 17th July that year.

The County Championship was then held annually around the county : at Headington in 1927, Bicester in 1928, Banbury in 1929, Henley-on-Thames in 1930, Goring in 1931, Chipping Norton in 1932 and Goring again in 1933. Unfortunately the *Sports Association* ran into difficulties in 1934.

On 2nd March, 1935 a meeting was held in Oxford when it was decided to reconstitute the Association as the *Oxfordshire Schools' Athletics Association* as it had been practically impossible to organise any other sports but athletics.

Before the formation of the original Association an Oxfordshire team was sent to the inaugural ESAA Championship in 1925 making them 1 of the 13 counties who participated.

1930 saw Oxfordshire claim its first ESAA Championship medal when Miss D. Evans took the silver medal in the Junior Girls 75 metres hurdles. It was 1951 before Oxfordshire had its first ESAA Champion when George Smith from the Gosford Hill Secondary Modern School in Kidlington won the Junior 880 yards title.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLIST

Hannah England	2011 1500m Silver 2003 I 1500m-2, 2004 S 1500m-3, 2005 S 1500m-2
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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLISTS

Stephanie Douglas (also Buckinghamshire)	1990 4 x 100m Bronze 1983 J 200m-3, 1984 and 1985 I 80mH-2, 1986 S 100mH-3, 1987 S 100mH-2
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Hatti Dean	2010 3000m Steeplechase Silver 1995 J CC-2, 1998 I CC-3, 1999 S CC-1
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Nathan Douglas	2006 Triple Jump Silver 1999 I TJ-3, 2000 and 2001 S TJ-1
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COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDALLISTS

Barbara Simmonds	1982 High Jump Bronze 1976 J HJ-1, 1977 I HJ-2, 1978 I HJ-1
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Stephanie Douglas (also Buckinghamshire)	1990 4 x 100m Silver, 1994 4 x 100m Bronze 1983 J 200m-3, 1984 and 1985 I 80mH-2, 1986 S 100mH-3, 1987 S 100mH-2
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Yinka Idowu	1994 Long Jump Silver 1988 I HEP-1, 1989 S LJ-3, 1989 S HEP-1, 1990 S LJ-2
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Jade O'Dowda	2022 Heptathlon Bronze and 2026 Heptathlon Silver 2016 I HEP-1, 2017 S HEP-1
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John FitzSimons	1966 Javelin Throw Gold, 1970 Javelin Throw Bronze 1960 S JT-5
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BRITISH CHAMPIONS

Barbara Simmonds	1979 and 1982 High Jump 1976 J HJ-1, 1977 I HJ-2, 1978 I HJ-1
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Stephanie Douglas (also Buckinghamshire)	1990 100m, 1991 200m, 1996 100m 1983 J 200m-3, 1984 and 1985 I 80mH-2, 1986 S 100mH-3, 1987 S 100mH-2
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Yinka Idowu	1994 Long Jump 1988 I HEP-1, 1989 S LJ-3, 1989 S HEP-1, 1990 S LJ-2
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Lynn Gibson	1998 1500m 1987 S 800m-3
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Hatti Dean	2006 3000m Steeplechase 1995 J CC-2, 1998 I CC-3, 1999 S CC-1
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Hannah England	2010, 2011 and, 2013 1500m 2003 I 1500m-2, 2004 S 1500m-3, 2005 S 1500m-2
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Gemma Bridge	2020 5k Walk 2011 S CC-36
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Jade O'Dowda	2024 Long Jump 2016 I HEP-1, 2017 S HEP-1
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John FitzSimons	1964 Javelin Throw 1960 S JT-5
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Nathan Douglas	2004, 2005, 2016 2018 and 2020 Triple Jump 1999 I TJ-3, 2000 and 2001 S TJ-1
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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 performance(s), or showing a non-medal winning performance, in the abbreviated format – *yyyy a eeee p* where :

yyyy Championship Year

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- 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

1976	J	DT	Amanda Franks	2005	I	HEP	Lucy Boggis
1976	J	HJ	Barbara Simmonds	2005	I	100m	Tara Kafke
1978	J	HJ	Elaine Hickey	2005	I	JT	Lucy Boggis
1978	I	HJ	Barbara Simmonds	2006	J	75mH	Kirsty Warland
1979	J	200m	Jane Boggett	2006	S	100mH	Lucy Boggis
1980	I	HJ	Elaine Hickey	2008	I	80mH	Kirsty Warland
1980	I	JT	Tracey Averies	2011	I	HJ	Cosima Berry
1981	I	400m	Jane Brown	2011	I	HT	Emma O'Hara
1981	S	CC	Sarah Alt	2013	I	LJ	Simi Fajemisin
1981	S	200m	Debbie Warner	2013	S	HT	Emma O'Hara
1983	J	JT	Sally Painter	2014	I	LJ	Simi Fajemisin
1988	I	HEP	Yinka Idowu	2014	S	DT	Amy Holder
1989	S	HEP	Yinka Idowu	2014	S	HT	Rebecca Keating
1990	J	LJ	Nicola Turner	2015	S	HT	Rebecca Keating
1991	J	1500m	Nikki Slater	2016	I	HEP	Jade O'Dowda
1991	I	HEP	Natasha Turner	2017	S	HEP	Jade O'Dowda
1993	I	CC	Nikki Slater	2021	I	HEP	Eloise Hind
1993	I	3000m	Nikki Slater	2021	I	LJ	Eloise Hind
1994	S	CC	Nikki Slater	2022	S	DT	Amber Jeacock West
1995	J	DT	Amie Hill	2024	I	1500m	Isla McGowan
1999	S	CC	Hatti Dean	2025	S	1500m	Isla McGowan
2002	J	800m	Carolyn Plateau	2026	I	300m	Bisan Musa
2003	J	JT	Lucy Boggis				

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ESAA BOYS CHAMPIONS

1951	J	880y	George Smith
1952	S	440y	William Warmington
1953	S	440y	William Warmington
1963	S	CC	Nick Barton
1977	J	80mH	C. Dawes
1982	J	DT	Matt Symonds
1983	I	DT	Matt Symonds
1984	I	DT	Matt Symonds
1985	J	DT	Chris Symonds
1985	S	DT	Matt Symonds
1988	I	SP	Richard Baker
1993	I	PV	Neil Turner
1993	S	LJ	Carl Howard
1995	J	PEN	Peter Watson
2000	S	TJ	Nathan Douglas
2001	S	TJ	Nathan Douglas
2003	J	1500m	Joshua Mulvany
2007	S	2000mST	Ed Womersley
2013	I	800m	Christian Von Eitzen
2016	S	DEC	Timothy Stephens
2016	S	400m	Ben Claridge
2022	S	1500m	Rowan Miell-Ingram
2023	J	100m	Divine Iheme
2023	I	100m	Matthew Ajayi
2023	S	JT	Charlie Evans
2024	J	100m	Divine Iheme
2025	J	CC	Leo Blyton
2025	I	100m	Divine Iheme

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MIXED RELAY WIN

2024 J 4x100m Oxfordshire

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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

1979	I	100m (B)	Debbie Warner
1980	I	200m (A)	Karen Rist
1980	I	HJ	Elaine Hickey
1980	I	JT	Tracey Averies
1987	I	400m (B)	Joanne Abraham
1990	I	DT	Sarah Symonds
1990	U16	iLJ	Nicola Turner
1991	J	CC	Nikki Slater
1993	I	3000m	Nikki Slater
1993	I	CC	Katherine Henville
1998	I	CC	Hatti Dean
2001	I	TJ	Rachel Brenton
2008	I	80mH	Kirsty Warland
2013	I	LJ	Simi Fajemisin
2016	O16	iPEN	Jade O'Dowda
2021	I	LJ	Eloise Hind
2026	I	300m	Bisan Musa

BOYS WINNERS

1984	I	DT	Matt Symonds
2013	I	800m	Christian von Eitzen
2023	I	100m	Matthew Ajayi
2025	I	100m	Divine Iheme

Winning performances are shown in the following 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 JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLIST - GIRLS

2001 Kelly Caffel 1500m Bronze

EUROPEAN JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLISTS - GIRLS

1979 Barbara Simmonds High Jump Bronze

1991 Yinka Idowu Long Jump Gold

EUROPEAN JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLIST - BOYS

1993 Carl Howard Long Jump Gold

EUROPEAN YOUTH / U18 MEDALLIST - GIRLS

2024 Isla McGowan 1500m Silver

EUROPEAN YOUTH /U18 MEDALLIST - BOYS

2026 Divine Iheme 100m Gold

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE

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, Triathlon and Weightlifting.

Details follow of an Oxfordshire ESAA competitor who went on to have a successful career in another sport :

RUGBY UNION – NIGEL STARMER-SMITH

Nigel represented Oxfordshire in the 1960 ESAA Intermediate 880 yards and in the 1961 ESAA Intermediate 440 yards. Although born in Cheltenham, he was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford before going on to Oxford University where he won a Rugby Blue.

After leaving university Nigel joined Harlequins RFC and, in 1969, gained the first of his 7 England caps. The last of his England caps came in 1971.

He retired from rugby in 1976 before embarking on a long career as a rugby TV presenter and commentator on BBC and ITV.