

ESAA – SUSSEX ROLL OF HONOUR

The *Sussex Schools' Sports and Athletics Association* was not formed until 1926.

However, in 1925, some athletic 'elimination events' were held in the county to find the best school athletes to send to the inaugural ESAA Championship. Unfortunately bad weather hampered the selection process but in the end a team of 8 boys from Hastings and Brighton and 2 girls from Brighton were chosen to represent the county at the ESAA Championship. Sussex therefore became 1 of the 13 counties who participated at the inaugural championship.

The first Sussex Schools County Championship was held on 10th July, 1926 at the Pilot Field, Hastings. Based on the results at this event a 44-strong team was selected to compete in the ESAA Championship at Stamford Bridge, London a few weeks later. A member of the team, L. Potter, became Sussex's first ESAA Championship medallist with a bronze in the Boys 440 yards.

It was not until 1937 that Sussex had its first ESAA Champions when J. Munday won the Under-14 Girls high jump title and J. Beech won the Under-14 Boys 440 yards title.

Sussex hosted the ESAA Championship for the first time in 1937 at Preston Park, Brighton. 725 competitors from 21 counties took part.

OLYMPIC GAMES MEDALLISTS

Amber Anning	2024 4 x 400m Bronze and Medley Relay Bronze 2015 J 200m-1, 2016 I 300m-1
Steve Overt	1980 800m Gold, 1500m Bronze 1970 J 400m-1, 1971 I 400m-3, 1972 I 800m-1, 1972 I CC-2, 1973 S CC-2
Mark Rowland	1988 3000m Steeplechase Bronze 1979 I 800m-3, 1980 S 800m-3

Toby Harries (2024 4 x 400m Bronze) ran in the relay heat but not in the final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLIST

Amber Anning	2023 4 x 400m Bronze 2015 J 200m-1, 2016 I 300m-1
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WORLD CROSS COUNTRY MEDALLIST

Tim Hutchings	1984 and 1989 Silver 1975 I 1500m-2
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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLISTS

Andy Todd	1969 400m Hurdles Bronze 1965 S 120yH-1, 1967 S 440y-1
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Steve Overtt	1974 800m Silver, 1978 800m Silver and 1500m Gold 1970 J 400m-1, 1971 I 400m-3, 1972 I 800m-1, 1972 I CC-2, 1973 S CC-2
Tim Hutchings	1986 5000m Bronze 1975 I 1500m-2
Mark Rowland	1990 3000m Steeplechase Silver 1979 I 800m-3, 1980 S 800m-3

Sean Baldock (1998 and 2002 4 x 400m Gold) ran in the relay heat but not in the final.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDALLISTS

Suzanne Allday (née Farmer)	1958 Discus Throw Gold 1950 I DT-1, 1951 I DT-1, 1952 S DT-1
Mike Winch	1974 and 1982 Shot Put Silver 1966 S SP-1
Steve Overtt	1986 5000m Gold 1970 J 400m-1, 1971 I 400m-3, 1972 I 800m-1, 1972 I CC-2, 1973 S CC-2
Tim Hutchings	1986 5000m Bronze 1975 I 1500m-2
Larry Achike	1998 Triple Jump Gold 1989 J TJ-1, 1991 I S TJ-1, 1992 S TJ-1, 1993 S TJ-1
Mick Jones	1998 Hammer throw Silver, 2002 Hammer Throw Gold 1979 I HT-3
Sean Baldock	2002 4 x 400m Gold 1996 S 400m-2
Toby Harries	2026 4 x 400m Mixed Relay Silver 2014 I 200m-2

Sean Baldock (1998 4 x 400m Silver) ran in the relay heat but not in the final.

BRITISH CHAMPIONS

Suzanne Allday (née Farmer)	1952, 1953, 1956 and 1958-62 Discus Throw, 1954, 1956 and 1958-63 Shot Put 1950 I DT-1, 1951 I DT-1, 1952 S DT-1
Penny Yule (later Forse)	1976 and 1977 1500m 1965 I 880y-5
Regina Joyce	1980 3000m

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	1971 J CC-3
Monica Joyce	1982 and 1985 5000m 1973 I 800m-3, 1974 I CC-2, 1975 S CC-2, 1975 S 800m-2
Sonia McGeorge (née Vinall)	1994 3000m 1982 S 800m-2, 1983 S 800m-3
Claire Smithson	2006 Discus Throw 1996 J DT-2, 1997 J DT-1, 1999 I DT-1, 2000 and 2001 S DT-1
Elise Lovell	2015 Heptathlon 2010 S LJ-1
Amber Anning	2024-2026 400m 2015 J 200m-1, 2016 I 300m-1
Gemma Tutton	2026 Pole Vault 2021 I PV-1
Steve Overt	1974-76 800m, 1979 1500m, 1980 1 Mile 1970 J 400m-1, 1971 I 400m-3, 1972 I 800m-1, 1972 I CC-2, 1973 S CC-2
Mike Winch	1981, 1982 and 1984 Shot Put 1966 S SP-1
Richard Slaney	1986 Discus Throw 1972 I DT-2, 1973 S DT-2
Tim Hutchings	1986 5000m 1975 I 1500m-2
Mark Rowland	1988 3000m Steeplechase, 1989 5000m 1979 I 800m-3, 1980 S 800m-3
Darrell Stone	1994 and 1995 10k Walk 1984 I 5k Walk-5
Nick Buckfield	1995-96, 2002-03 and 2005 Pole Vault 1989 I PV-2, 1990 S DEC-3, 1991 and 1992 S PV-1
Philip King	1997 10k Walk 1990 and 1991 I 5k Walk-1, 1993 S 5k Walk
Mick Jones	1998-2002 and 2004 Hammer Throw 1979 I HT-3
Larry Achike	1999, 2003 and 2011-12 Triple Jump 1989 J TJ-1, 1991 I S TJ-1, 1992 S TJ-1, 1993 S TJ-1
Matthew Hales	2000 10k Walk 1998 S 5k Walk-4

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Gavin Thompson	2005 10000m 1998 S CC-4
Tim Bayley	2005 800m 2000 S 800m-sf
Charlie Grice	2014-16 1500m 2010 I 1500m-1, 2011 S 1500m-1
Rob Mullett	2015-17 3000m Steeplechase 2005 S 2000mST-8
Seb Rodger	2016 400m Hurdles 2008 S LJ-8
Spencer Thomas	2019 800m 2014 S 800m-3

Notes regarding the athlete details shown above :

An entry for each athlete consists of the first line detailing their Major Championship medal win or their British Championship title win. Second (and subsequent) lines show their ESAA championship performances 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

1937	U14	HJ	J. Munday	1997	I	3k Walk	Amy Hales
1939	U14	150y	Irene Pain	1998	J	JT	Samantha Redd
1946	U16	100y	Daphne Bosley	1998	I	3k Walk	Amy Hales
1950	I	DT	Suzanne Farmer	1999	J	3k Walk	Sophie Hales
1951	I	DT	Suzanne Farmer	1999	I	DT	Claire Smithson
1951	S	80mH	Marie Bridgeford	2000	I	3k Walk	Sophie Hales
1952	S	DT	Suzanne Farmer	2000	I	JT	Samantha Redd
1952	S	HJ	Cherry Neighbour	2000	S	DT	Claire Smithson
1954	J	LJ	Christina McKinnon	2001	I	3k Walk	Sophie Hales
1955	J	HJ	Maureen Miller	2001	I	HJ	Emma Perkins
1958	J	DT	Wendy Thomas	2001	S	DT	Claire Smithson
1960	S	880y	Jill Vincent	2002	J	100m	Carley Wenham
1961	S	DT	Mary Haynes	2002	S	5k Walk	Sophie Hales
1965	S	100y	Angela Birch	2003	I	300mH	Ellen Howarth-Brown
1966	S	HJ	Rosemary Bray	2005	I	800m	Emily Goodall
1967	J	80yH	Denise Etheridge	2005	S	400mH	Ellen Howarth-Brown
1970	J	HJ	Ann Hull	2006	I	TJ	Kayley Alcorn
1976	J	JT	Jackie Brown	2008	I	PV	Lucy Stickland
1978	J	JT	Karen Miller	2010	J	4x100m	Sussex
1979	J	2.5k Walk	Sarah Brown	2010	S	800m	Adelle Tracey
1980	I	3k Walk	Sarah Brown	2010	S	LJ	Elise Lovell
1981	I	3k Walk	Sarah Brown	2012	I	HJ	Robyn Petitt
1982	I	3k Walk	Helen Ringshaw	2013	S	400m	Holly Turner
1982	S	5k Walk	Sarah Brown	2015	J	200m	Amber Anning
1983	S	5k Walk	Sarah Brown	2015	I	300m	Orla Brothers
1984	I	CC	Bridget Smyth	2015	S	PV	Olivia Connor
1984	I	1500m	Bridget Smyth	2016	I	300m	Amber Anning
1985	S	800m	Bridget Smyth	2016	S	PV	Olivia Connor
1985	S	HJ	Kerry Roberts	2017	J	JT	Elizabeth Korczak
1986	S	CC	Bridget Smyth	2017	S	400mH	Orla Brothers
1986	S	5k Walk	Julie Drake	2017	S	HJ	Lillie Franks
1986	S	800m	Bridget Smyth	2018	J	LJ	Cleo Tomlinson
1986	S	HJ	Kerry Roberts	2018	I	JT	Elizabeth Korczak
1987	I	3k Walk	Joanne Pope	2018	S	PV	Natasha Purchas
1987	S	5k Walk	Julie Drake	2019	J	PV	Emilie Oakden
1989	J	LJ	Geraldine Chate	2019	I	CC	Bethany Cook
1989	I	3k Walk	Philippa Savage	2019	I	JT	Elizabeth Korczak
1990	I	3k Walk	Philippa Savage	2021	I	PV	Gemma Tutton
1993	I	300m	Rosalind Baker	2021	S	JT	Elizabeth Korczak
1995	J	2.5k Walk	Amy Hales	2022	J	800m	Grace Tuesday
1996	J	2.5k Walk	Amy Hales	2022	J	HT	Alice Howie
1997	J	DT	Claire Smithson	2022	I	JT	Dulcie Yelling
1997	J	JT	Samantha Redd	2022	S	LJ	Ruby Jerges

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ESAA GIRLS CHAMPIONS (cont'd)

2022	S	PV	Emilie Oakden
2023	I	HT	Alice Howie
2023	S	JT	Rachael Wall
2023	S	PV	Emilie Oakden
2024	I	HT	Alice Howie
2024	S	800m	Eleanor Strevens
2025	S	HT	Alice Howie
2026	J	PV	Florence Matten
2026	S	1500mST	Ava James

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ESAA BOYS CHAMPIONS

1937	U14	440y	J. Beech	1964	J	4x110y	Sussex
1946	U16	220y	Leslie Shakeshaft	1964	J	80yH	Patrick Robinson
1948	J	440y	Peter Martin	1965	I	SP	William Bartholomew
1949	J	80yH	Roy Cooper	1965	S	120yH	Andy Todd
1951	I	1M	Bruce Willard	1966	I	TJ	Brian Hull
1951	S	1M	David Humphrey	1966	S	SP	Mike Winch
1952	I	HJ	Harvey Bateman	1967	J	HJ	Willie Paterson
1953	I	880y	Alan Batchelor	1967	J	JT	Graham Good
1953	I	HJ	Harvey Bateman	1967	S	440y	Andy Todd
1954	J	LJ	Ronald Powell	1968	J	HJ	Willie Paterson
1954	I	1M	Alan Pegley	1968	S	JT	Adrian Diffey
1954	I	880y	Alan Batchelor	1969	S	5k Walk	Richard Evans
1954	I	LJ	David Smith	1969	S	TJ	Brian Hull
1954	S	1M	Reg New	1970	J	400m	Steve Ovet
1955	J	DT	John Farmer	1970	S	HJ	Chris Youngs
1955	I	LJ	Ronald J. Powell	1972	J	HJ	David George
1955	S	TJ	David Smith	1972	I	800m	Steve Ovet
1956	J	880y	Peter Standen	1972	I	JT	John Trower
1956	J	TJ	Michael Smith	1973	J	200m	Andy Parker
1956	I	LJ	Ronald Powell	1975	I	5k Walk	Colin Pope
1957	J	100y	Raymond E. Eatwell	1975	S	800m	Simon Morley
1957	J	TJ	Edwin Sweetman	1977	J	200m	Mark Fabes
1957	I	DT	John Farmer	1977	J	4x100m	Sussex
1957	S	4x110y	Sussex	1978	J	DT	Ashley Ward
1958	J	440y	Roger Nicholson	1979	I	400m	Mark Fabes
1958	J	TJ	Colin Myers	1979	S	5000m	Andy Bristow
1958	I	100y	Richard Seeley	1980	I	DT	Ashley Ward
1958	I	4x110y	Sussex	1981	S	DT	Ashley Ward
1958	I	880y	Peter Standen	1982	J	3k Walk	Grant Ringshaw
1958	I	TJ	Michael Smith	1982	I	800m	Jon Bigg
1958	S	100y	Ronald Powell	1982	S	5000m	Richard Carter
1959	J	220y	Edward Osborn	1983	J	SP	Phillips Tymms
1959	J	4x110y	Sussex	1983	S	CC	Richard Carter
1959	J	HJ	Geoff Beales	1983	S	5000m	Richard Carter
1959	I	100y	Raymond E. Eatwell	1984	I	1500m	Johan Boakes
1960	J	440y	Timothy Dore	1985	J	TJ	Junior Chukukere
1960	J	HJ	Dennis Lade	1986	S	1500m	Johan Boakes
1961	J	880y	Peter Travis	1987	I	TJ	Junior Chukukere
1961	I	LJ	Geoff Beales	1987	S	10k Walk	Gareth Brown
1962	J	1M	Geoffrey Brown	1989	J	TJ	Larry Achike
1962	J	PV	Mike Templeman	1989	I	400m	David Simpson
1962	S	LJ	Geoff Beales	1990	J	3k Walk	Jamie Nunn
1963	S	LJ	Geoff Beales	1990	I	CC	Luke Veness

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ESAA BOYS CHAMPIONS (cont'd)

1990	I	5k Walk	Philip King	2001	J	100m	Wade Bennett-Jackson
1990	I	3000m	Luke Veness	2002	I	3000m	Craig Ivery
1991	J	3k Walk	Robert Meechem	2003	S	DT	Simon Cooke
1991	I	5k Walk	Philip King	2008	S	100m	Harvey Byrne
1991	I	TJ	Larry Achike	2010	I	1500m	Charlie Grice
1991	S	PV	Nick Buckfield	2011	J	HT	Woody Cox
1992	J	3k Walk	Robert Meechem	2011	S	1500m	Charlie Grice
1992	S	PV	Nick Buckfield	2013	J	PV	Calum Neil
1992	S	TJ	Larry Achike	2014	S	1500m	Robbie Fitzgibbon
1993	J	3k Walk	Matthew Hales	2015	I	400mH	Joe Fuggle
1993	S	5k Walk	Philip King	2016	I	JT	Edan Cole
1993	S	TJ	Larry Achike	2016	S	400mH	Joe Fuggle
1994	J	3k Walk	Matthew Hales	2016	S	800m	Finley Bigg
1995	J	CC	Russell Pittam	2017	J	LJ	Adam Lindo
1995	J	LJ	Kirk King	2017	I	HT	Ben Hawkes
1995	S	5k Walk	Robert Meechem	2017	S	110mH	Cameron Fillery
1996	I	800m	Simon Eyre	2018	S	SP	Daniel-James Thomas
1997	I	800m	Simon Eyre	2019	J	200m	Bailey Smith
1997	S	5k Walk	Matthew Hales	2019	I	400mH	Pyers Lockwood
1997	S	2000mST	Andrew Robinson	2021	J	80mH	Elliott Hanslow
1998	S	5k Walk	Matthew Hales	2022	I	800m	Miles Waterworth
1999	J	3k Walk	James Davis	2024	I	PV	Braimoh Busari
2000	J	3k Walk	Luke Davis	2024	S	1500m	Alexander Riley
2000	J	DT	Simon Cooke				

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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

1961	S	DT	Mary Haynes	2002	I	HJ	Emma Perkins
1965	S	100y	Angela Birch	2005	I	800m	Emily Goodall
1983	I	CC	Bridget Smyth	2006	I	TJ	Kayley Alcorn
1984	I	1500m	Bridget Smyth	2007	I	DT	Jodie Jacobs
1984	I	CC	Bridget Smyth	2011	I	JT	Grace Hailstone
1993	I	300m	Rosalind Baker	2016	I	300m	Amber Anning
1997	I	300m	Gabi Howell	2018	I	JT	Elizabeth Korczak
1997	I	3k Walk	Amy Hales	2021	I	PV	Gemma Tutton
2000	I	3k Walk	Sophie Hales	2022	I	JT	Dulcie Yelling
2000	I	JT	Samantha Redd	2023	I	HT	Alice Howie
2001	I	3k Walk	Sophie Hales	2024	I	HT	Alice Howie
2001	I	HJ	Emma Perkins	2026	I	3000m	Florence Goodwin

BOYS WINNERS

1962	S	LJ	Geoff Beales	1989	I	PV	Nick Buckfield
1965	S	120yH	Andy Todd	1990	I	3000m	Luke Veness
1966	S	DT	Mike Winch	1991	I	TJ	Larry Achike
1966	S	SP	Mike Winch	1996	U16	iLJ	Kirk King
1967	S	JT	Adrian Diffey	1997	I	800m	Simon Eyre
1968	S	JT	Adrian Diffey	2009	I	HT	Matthew Lasis
1969	S	JT	Adrian Diffey	2010	I	100mH	Nicholas Ofonagoro
1969	S	TJ	Brian Hull	2010	I	1500m	Charlie Grice
1970	S	HJ	Chris Youngs	2011	I	100mH	Jordan Auburn
1978	I	400m (B)	Mark Fabes	2015	I	400mH	Joe Fuggle
1978	I	3000m	Andy Bristow	2017	I	HT	Ben Hawkes
1980	I	DT	Ashley Ward	2019	I	400mH	Pyers Lockwood
1984	I	1500m	Johan Boakes	2022	I	800m	Miles Waterworth

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))

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eee 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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WORLD JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLISTS - BOYS

1986	Johan Boakes	1500m Bronze
1994	Larry Achike	Triple Jump Gold
1996	Mark Rowlands	4 x 400m Bronze
2006	Wade Bennett-Jackson	4 x 100m Bronze
2010	Seb Rodger	4 x 400m Bronze

WORLD YOUTH / U18 MEDALLIST - GIRLS

2011	Louisa James	Hammer Throw Gold
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EUROPEAN U23 MEDALLISTS - BOYS

2013	Charlie Grice	1500m Silver
2013	Seb Rodger	400m Hurdles Silver
2019	Cameron Fillery	110m Hurdles Bronze
2019	Spencer Thomas	800m Silver

EUROPEAN JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLIST - GIRLS

2019	Amber Anning	400m Silver and 4 x 400m Gold
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EUROPEAN JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLISTS - BOYS

1973	Steve Overt	800m Gold
1993	Larry Achike	Triple Jump Bronze
2005	Wade Bennett-Jackson	200m Bronze
2005	Set Osho	4 x 400m Gold
2007	Olafunmi Sobodu	4 x 100m Silver
2017	Toby Harries	200m Gold

Olafunmi Sobodu (2009 4 x 100m Bronze) ran in the relay heat but not in the final.

ESAA – SUSSEX ROLL OF HONOUR

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

Many gifted young 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 two Sussex ESAA competitors who went on to have a successful career in other sports :

RUGBY UNION – JESSICA BREACH

Jessica represented Sussex when she competed in the 2014 ESAA Inter 80m Hurdles but failed to reach the final. She had already been playing rugby union for 8 years prior to this having started at the age of 6 !

She now plays for Saracens RFC and is a current England rugby union team member. She was the youngest member of the England Rugby 7's team at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and returned with a bronze medal.

Jessica made her England international debut against Canada in 2017 and scored an incredible 6 tries. As of the end of July 2026, she had 57 England caps to her name.

BRAD HALL

Brad represented Sussex when finishing 8th in the 2008 ESAA Senior Decathlon. He switched to Bobsleigh in 2012.

Brad has been competing at the highest level in bobsleigh since 2015. He competed for Great Britain in the Bobsleigh at the 2018 Winter Olympics, finishing 12th in the 2-man bob and 17th in the 4-man bob. In the delayed 2020 Winter Olympics he had a 6th place in the 4-man bob.

The 2021/22 season was his best to-date with a silver medal in the Olympic Test event and a further 6 medals (5 silver and 1 bronze) in the World Cup events.

His best World Championship finish is 4th equal in the 2-man bob in 2019.