

ESAA – WEST YORKSHIRE ROLL OF HONOUR

The implementation of the 1972 Local Government Act on April 1st, 1974 resulted in the creation of the metropolitan county of West Yorkshire. It was formed mainly from the western part of the West Riding of Yorkshire which included the boroughs of Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds and Wakefield.

The *West Yorkshire Schools Athletic Association* was formed in 1974 to organise and supervise athletics in the new county.

The Association had almost immediate success with Ian Lindley winning West Yorkshire's first ESAA title, the 1975 Senior shot put.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLIST

Mick Hill	1993 Javelin Throw Bronze 1981 I JT-2, 1983 S JT-1
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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLISTS

Emily Freeman	2006 4 x 100m Silver 1997 I 200m-2, 1999 S 100m-1
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Mick Hill	1998 Javelin Throw Silver 1981 I JT-2, 1983 S JT-1
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Martyn Bernard	2010 High Jump Bronze 2001 I HJ-1
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COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDALLISTS

Mick Hill	1986, 1990, 1994 Javelin Throw Silver, 1998 Javelin Throw Bronze 1981 I JT-2, 1983 S JT-1
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Mike Makin	1986 Triple Jump Silver 1978 I TJ-7
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Peter Crampton	1994 4 x 400m Gold 1985 I 400m-3, 1987 S 200m-1
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Martyn Bernard	2006 High Jump Silver 2001 I HJ-1
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BRITISH CHAMPIONS

Kath Binns	1981 5000m and 10000m 1976 S 1500m-4
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Julie Laughton (née Whiteley)	1985 1500m 1977 S CC-1
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Paula Fryer	1991 800m 1988 S 800m-2
Penny Thackray	2001 10000m 1991 S CC-109
Emily Freeman	2008 and 2009 200m 1997 I 200m-2, 1999 S 100m-1
Jess Mayho	2019 and 2020 Hammer Throw 2011 S HT-3
Derrick Brown	1986 Long Jump 1979 I LJ-q
Mick Hill	1987, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 2002 and 2003 Javelin Throw 1981 I JT-2, 1983 S JT-1
Richard Nerurkar	1990 10000m 1980 I CC-16
Peter Crampton	1994 400m Hurdles 1985 I 400m-3, 1987 S 200m-1
Mark Sesay	1999 800m 1987 J 800m-1, 1988 I 800m-2, 1989 I 800m-1, 1991 and 1992 S 800m-1
Martyn Bernard	2006, 2007 and 2010 High Jump 2001 I HJ-1
James Wilkinson	2013 and 2014 3000m Steeplechase 2006 I 1500mST-2, 2008 S 2000mST-1
Daniel Gardiner	2016 Long Jump 2006 I LJ-2, 2006 I OCT-2, 2007 S DEC-2
Reynold Banigo	2020 and 2022 Long Jump 2016 S LJ-1
Max Burgin	2022 and 2025 800m 2016 J 800m-1
Emile Cairaess	2025 10000m 2016 S 3000m-2

Notes regarding the athlete details shown above :

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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

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

1977	I	CC	Sandra Arthurton
1977	S	CC	Julie Whiteley
1978	I	CC	Sandra Arthurton
1978	I	1500m	Sandra Arthurton
1979	S	CC	Sandra Arthurton
1979	S	1500m	Sandra Arthurton
1981	J	75mH	Sharon Robinson
1982	I	CC	Sally Ramsdale
1984	J	CC	Catherine Bennett
1984	J	200m	Sharon Burbidge
1984	J	JT	Susan Rowbotham
1986	I	DT	Jayne Thornton
1988	S	DT	Jayne Thornton
1989	S	400mH	Sara Elson
1999	S	100m	Emily Freeman
2002	J	DT	Chloe Beckett
2003	I	HEP	Naida Bromley
2004	S	HT	Sarah Holt
2005	I	TJ	Hannah Francis-Smithson
2006	I	PV	Abigail Haywood
2007	I	SP	Hannah Evenden
2007	S	100mH	Hannah Francis-Smithson
2009	J	4x100m	West Yorkshire
2009	S	PV	Abigail Haywood
2009	S	SP	Hannah Evenden
2011	S	CC	Jennifer Walsh
2011	S	800m	Jennifer Walsh
2011	S	SP	Lucy Holmes
2012	I	3k Walk	Ellie Dooley
2012	S	100mH	Brogan Crowley
2012	S	4x100m	West Yorkshire
2013	I	CC	Annabel Mason
2013	S	5k Walk	Ellie Dooley
2014	I	HJ	Abby Ward
2014	S	5k Walk	Ellie Dooley
2014	S	PV	Abigail Roberts
2017	I	SP	Rhea Southcott
2021	S	HJ	Zara Tyas
2022	S	100m	Hilary Gode

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ESAA BOYS CHAMPIONS

1975	S	SP	Ian Lindley	1996	J	1500m	Richard King
1976	J	100m	Gary Yeadon	1996	I	3000m	Jon Stewart
1976	J	4x100m	West Yorkshire	1996	S	100m	Paul Sampson
1976	S	1500m	Sean Cahill	1996	S	110mH	Tony Gill
1977	S	LJ	Alan Slack	1998	I	1500m	Richard King
1979	J	CC	Andrew Rodgers	1998	S	2000mST	Mark Warmby
1980	I	1500mST	Andrew Rodgers	1999	J	CC	Stephen Enright
1980	S	TJ	Aamer Khan	1999	J	JT	Andy Robinson
1981	J	1500m	Richard Findlow	2001	I	HJ	Martyn Bernard
1981	J	LJ	Peter Shearman	2003	J	JT	Sam Allan
1981	J	SP	N. Chuku	2003	I	OCT	Andrew Staniland
1982	J	1500m	Paul Hemmings	2003	S	2000mST	Mark Buckingham
1982	I	400mH	David Wild	2003	S	LJ	Chris Kirk
1982	S	2000mST	Andrew Rodgers	2004	S	LJ	Andrew Staniland
1983	J	400m	James O'Toole	2006	S	CC	Alastair Brownlee
1983	I	CC	Richard Findlow	2008	S	2000mST	James Wilkinson
1983	I	1500m	Richard Findlow	2009	S	LJ	Adam Timms
1983	I	LJ	Peter Shearman	2010	I	5k Walk	Jamie Higgins
1983	S	JT	Mick Hill	2010	I	DT	Jake Armstrong
1984	J	JT	Marcus Adjee	2011	S	5k Walk	Jamie Higgins
1984	S	PV	Paul Wray	2011	S	100m	Jordan Toth
1985	I	400mH	Richard Foulkes	2012	J	DT	George Armstrong
1985	I	TJ	Mark Whitehead	2012	S	5k Walk	Jamie Higgins
1985	S	1500m	Simon Pease	2014	I	DT	George Armstrong
1986	I	400mH	Robert Brown	2015	S	100m	Daniel Walsh
1986	S	PV	Paul Phelps	2016	J	800m	Max Burgin
1986	S	TJ	Mark Whitehead	2016	S	200m	Connor Wood
1987	J	800m	Mark Sesay	2016	S	DT	George Armstrong
1987	S	200m	Peter Crampton	2016	S	LJ	Reynold Banigo
1987	S	3000m	Steve Halliday	2017	J	CC	Tommy Dawson
1988	J	CC	Paul Garside	2023	I	HJ	Jack Holmes
1988	I	CC	Andrew Pearson	2024	J	CC	Yaried Alem
1988	S	400mH	Robert Brown	2024	J	PEN	Joshua Akintolu
1989	I	800m	Mark Sesay	2024	J	HJ	Joshua Akintolu
1991	I	JT	Richard Atkinson	2024	I	800m	Rafferty Mirfin
1991	S	800m	Mark Sesay	2025	S	800m	Rafferty Mirfin
1992	S	800m	Mark Sesay	2025	S	PV	Arthur Reilly
1993	S	HT	Anthony Swain	2026	I	HJ	Joshua Akintolu
1994	S	DEC	Roger Hunter	2026	S	PV	Arthur Reilly
1995	J	1500m	Jonathan Keith				

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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

1976	I	LJ	Diane McNulty	2005	I	TJ	Hannah Francis-Smithson
1977	I	CC	Sandra Arthurton	2006	I	PV	Abigail Haywood
1978	I	CC	Sandra Arthurton	2009	I	80mH	Grace Christopher
1984	J	CC	Catherine Bennett	2012	I	CC	Annabel Mason
1986	I	DT	Jayne Thornton	2013	I	PV	Abigail Roberts
1988	I	80mH	Angie Thorp	2014	I	HJ	Abby Ward
1996	I	300mH	Laura Siddall	2026	I	1500m	Isabella Tutt
2003	U18	iPEN	Naida Bromley				

BOYS WINNERS

1980	I	1500mST	Andrew Rodgers	1995	I	HJ	Richard Dent
1981	I	1500mST	Andrew Rodgers	1996	J	CC	Jon Stewart
1983	I	CC	Richard Findlow	1996	U16	i1500m	Jonathan Keith
1985	I	400mH	Richard Foulkes	2003	I	LJ	Andrew Staniland
1985	I	TJ	Mark Whitehead	2007	I	LJ	Adam Timms
1986	I	400mH	Robert Brown	2010	I	DT	Jake Armstrong
1986	I	PV	Daniel Chalkley	2017	J	CC	Tommy Dawson
1988	I	800m	Mark Sesay	2026	I	HJ	Joshua Akintolu
1991	I	JT	Richard Atkinson				

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)

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EUROPEAN U23 MEDALLISTS - GIRLS

2009	Sarah Holt	Hammer Throw Bronze
2023	Hilary Gode (FRA)	4 x 100m Silver

EUROPEAN U23 MEDALLISTS - BOYS

2011	James Wilkinson	Cross Country Bronze
2012	James Wilkinson	Cross Country Bronze
2019	Emile Cairess	10000m Bronze

EUROPEAN JUNIOR / U20 MEDALLISTS - BOYS

1981	Mike Makin	Triple Jump Bronze
1987	Peter Crampton	400m Gold and 4 x 400m Gold
2005	Richard Strachan	4 x 400m Gold
2009	James Wilkinson	Cross Country Bronze
2009	James Wilkinson	3000m Steeplechase Silver
2025	Rafferty Mirfin	800m Gold

Scott Atkinson (2013 4 x 400m Bronze) ran in the relay heat but not in the final.

EUROPEAN YOUTH / U18 MEDALLIST - BOYS

2018	Max Burgin	800m Gold
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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 eight West Yorkshire ESAA competitors who went on to have a successful career in other sports :

BOBSLEIGH - LEON GREENWOOD

Leon represented West Yorkshire in 2012 and 2013 in the Intermediate 200m and 400m. Both times he finished 5th in the heats but went on to become Welsh 200m champion in 2019. Following injury and 2-years of rehabilitation he switched to Bobsleigh in 2022.

In 2023 he was in the 4-man team which won the silver medal in the World Championship in St. Moritz.

Leon was in the 2026 Great Britain Olympic 4-man bob team, piloted by Brad Hall, which finished in 7th position. He had earlier taken part in the final 2 runs of the 2-man bob event when Taylor Lawrence sustained an injury. They finished in 12th place.

CYCLING – KATY MARCHANT

Katy represented West Yorkshire when finishing third in both the 2007 ESAA Junior and 2009 ESAA Inter Heptathlons. She also finished 21st in the 2012 World Junior Heptathlon Championship.

Katy switched to cycling in 2013 and 3 years later won the bronze medal in the 2016 Olympic Sprint. She followed this up with a bronze medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games team sprint, partnered by Lauren Bate. She won her first World Cup event, the Keirin in 2019.

In 2024 she won an Olympic Gold medal as a member of the Great Britain team that won the Cycling Team Sprint title in World record time.

ROWING – DEBBIE FLOOD

Debbie represented West Yorkshire in all age groups at the ESAA Cross Country Championships between 1994 and 1999. She was also a Great Britain junior judo international. In 1998 she won a bronze medal in the double sculls at the World Junior Rowing Championships.

Debbie went on to win silver medals in the quadruple sculls in the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games. She also won 3 gold medals in the quad event at the 2006, 2007 and 2010 World Rowing Championships. Interestingly another member of the 2006 World quad team was another ESAA competitor, Sarah Winckless MBE.

RUGBY LEAGUE – ANDY RODGERS

Andy represented West Yorkshire when winning the 1980 ESAA Inter and 1982 Senior Steeplechase titles. He had previously won the 1979 ESAA Cross Country title.

He went on to play professional Rugby League for Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity. He also played professional rugby league in Australia.

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RUGBY UNION – PAUL SAMPSON

Paul represented West Yorkshire when winning the 1996 ESAA Senior 100 metres title but rugby was where his future lay. A year previously he had shown his prowess at rugby union by being named man-of-the-match in the England Schools v Australia Schools international.

In 1996, while still at school at Woodhouse Grove School in West Yorkshire, he was called into the England Senior rugby squad. Paul played for Wasps from 1996 to 2004 making 110 appearances. His England debut came in 1996 and he gained the last of his 3 caps in 2001.

He also played Rugby League for Wakefield Trinity and the London Broncos.

SKELETON - BROGAN CROWLEY

Brogan represented West Yorkshire when winning the 2012 ESAA Senior 100 metres Hurdles title. She finished third in the ESAA Senior Heptathlon a year earlier. She had been struggling with ankle injuries and decided to take up a new sport in 2014, hence the switch to Bobsleigh.

She finished 9th in the 2016/17 World Junior Championships. In 2020 she progressed to the top tier of skeleton competition by racing in the last World Cup event of the season. Her best result to date is 5th place in the 2021 World Cup race in Innsbruck.

Less than 2 weeks later she was 23rd in her first World Championships.

TRIATHLON - ALISTAIR BROWNLEE MBE

Alistair represented West Yorkshire when winning the ESAA Senior Cross Country Championship in March of 2006. Less than 6 months later he won the World Junior Triathlon title and then decided to concentrate on the Triathlon.

In 2008 he won the World Under-23 Triathlon title. 2 European Triathlon Championships titles (2010 and 2011) and 2 World Triathlon Series (World Championship) titles (2009 and 2011) were added to his list of achievements before his first Olympic triumph at the London Olympic Games in 2012.

In 2014 Alistair won another European Triathlon Championship title and the Commonwealth Games Gold. He then won an unprecedented second Olympic title in 2016.

He was awarded the MBE in 2013.

TRIATHLON - GORDON BENSON

Gordon represented West Yorkshire when finishing 7th in the 2010 ESAA Inter Cross Country. He participated in Triathlon from the age of 15.

He was British Junior Triathlon champion in 2011. He also won the inaugural European Games Triathlon gold in 2015 and competed with the Brownlee brothers for Great Britain at the 2016 Olympic Games.

Gordon was part of the Great Britain team that was 2nd in the 2019 World Triathlon Mixed Relay Series events in Edmonton and Tokyo.

TRIATHLON – JONNY BROWNLEE MBE

Jonny represented West Yorkshire and had a best placing of 11th in the 2008 ESAA Senior Cross Country Championship. By this time he had already won the British Youth Triathlon title twice, in 2006 and 2007, so the switch to Triathlon full-time came as no surprise.

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In the lead-up to the London Olympic Games Jonny won the 2010 and 2011 World Triathlon Sprint Championships titles. This event is made up of a 750m swim, a 20km bike ride and a 5km run. The standard triathlon segments are twice the distance.

In 2012 Jonny won the bronze medal in the 2012 Olympics and followed this with the silver medal in 2016, both times with his brother winning the event. He also won the 2012 World Triathlon Series (World Championships) title a few months after the London Olympic Games.

Jonny completed his set of Olympic Games medals in the delayed 2020 Olympic Games with gold in the Mixed Relay Triathlon.

He was awarded the MBE in 2022.