

At the EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first European Athletics Championships were held in Turin, Italy in 1934. In all, 26 European Championships have taken place in 15 different countries. The next championship is scheduled for Birmingham in 2026 with Britain hosting the event for the first time.

ESAA athletes have won medals in every European Championships since 1950 with one exception, the 1966 championship. The sequence of success was tantalisingly close to being maintained in 1966 with Mary Rand finishing in 4th place in the pentathlon, only 2 points behind the bronze medallist, and Chris Carter finishing in 4th place in the 800m in a UK record and the same time as the bronze medallist. Using the current points table Mary would have won the bronze medal !

ESAA athletes have won 58 European Championship titles in individual events, 16 girls and 42 boys events.

193 ESAA competitors and another 6 who competed in their County SAA championships have won European Championship medals.

The 1950 medal winners included two ESAA competitors who won medals in ESAA Championships in the 1930s. One was Dorothy Odam, the high jump silver medallist and 1934 ESAA Under-16 silver medallist, and the other was Bill Nankeville, the 1500m bronze medallist and 1938 ESAA Under-14 800m bronze medallist.

Another impressive fact is that the medal-winning women's 4 x 100m relay teams of 1978, 1982, 1990, 2006, 2014, 2016 and 2018 and the women's 4 x 400m teams of 1969 and 1990 were all made up of former ESAA competitors. Similarly the men's 4 x 100m relay teams of 2006, 2014 and 2016 and the men's 4 x 400m team of 2022 were all made up of former ESAA competitors.

Since 1960 180 ESAA athletes and a further 6 County SAA competitors have gone on to win European Championship medals. 6 of these medal winners represented countries other than England.

The 180 make up **88%** of the 205 England athletes who were educated in English schools and could have won medals.