

## SURPRISES AT OLYMPIC TRIALS

### Fund Link to Olympic Athletes

As in Sydney 2000, 33 of the athletics team for Athens have been supported by the Fund in the past. They are:

**Sean Baldock**, 4 x 400m relay  
**Tim Benjamin**, 400m, relay  
**Nick Buckfield**, Pole Vault  
**Malcolm Devonish**, relay  
**Matt Douglas**, 400m Hurdles  
**Nathan Douglas**, T.Jump  
**Michael East**, 1500m  
**Jason Gardener** 100m, relay  
**Dwayne Grant**, Sprint relay  
**Phillips Idowu**, Triple Jump  
**Chris Lambert**, 200m, relay  
**Dean Macey**, Decathlon  
**Robert Newton**, 110m H.  
**Nick Nieland**, Javelin  
**Matt O'Dowd**, Marathon  
**Nick Smith**, Sprint relay  
**Robert Tobin**, 4 x 400m relay  
**Chris Tomlinson**, L. Jump  
**Emeka Udechuku**, Discus

**Sarah Claxton**, 110m H.  
**Jo Fenn**, 800m  
**Jade Johnson**, L. Jump  
**Helen Karagounis**, 4 x 400m  
**Denise Lewis**, Heptathlon  
**Lee McConnell**, 400m, relay  
**Catherine Murphy**, relay  
**Shelley Newman**, Discus  
**Christine Ohuruogu**, 400m,  
**Abi Oyepitan**, 200m  
**Philippa Roles**, Discus  
**Goldie Sayers**, Javelin  
**Kelly Sotherton**, Heptathlon  
**Shirley Webb**, Hammer  
 And .....  
**Jodie Swallow**, Triathlete.

The Olympic Trials in Manchester in July brought outstanding performances from four 20-year-old athletes who were given grants from Ron's Fund this year.

**Nick Smith**, from Scotland, surprised everyone in the sprints and has been rewarded with a place in the relay, as has **Robert Tobin** in the 4 x 400m.



In the Triple Jump the talent of **Nathan Douglas**, from Oxford, was evident from his very first jump of the competition, but his final winning effort produced a new pb of 16.95m and qualification for Athens. His delight was obvious for all to see!

However, the biggest surprise was in the women's 400m. Who would have believed that **Christine Ohuruogu** would have shown such brilliance in winning the event. Even Christine herself could not believe it!



Add to these names **Goldie Sayers** in the Javelin, who also qualified for selection with her winning throw, and the future looks bright.

Whatever happens in the Olympics, it is a fantastic experience which will stand them in good stead for the future. We will follow their efforts in Athens with great interest and wish them—and all the Great Britain team—the very best of luck.

On receiving her grant, **Christine Ohuruogu** said: "I would just like to take this opportunity to express my extreme gratitude at the grant. It is great encouragement to know that there is support when there has been an achievement, and your generosity is truly appreciated."

**The Brasher Private Trust** continued its support of young athletes through Ron's Fund and selected **Charlotte Browning**, **Richard Davenport**, **Christopher Parr**, **Rachael Thompson** and **Daniel Russell** to receive special grants from their donation. The remaining £1,000 is being distributed to other young athletes for special achievements during the present athletic season. **Richard Davenport's** response was to break the 21-year-old UK Junior record for 400m Hurdles in qualifying for the final at the World Champs. Many congratulations to Richard and our thanks to the Brasher family for their generosity.

## OUR MARATHON RUNNERS

We always promise that every penny raised by our runners in the London Marathon goes to young athletes and the £30,708 raised in 2003 was included in the £62,700 given out in grants to 362 youngsters in January. The fact that four of these will be in the G.B Olympic team should give our marathon runners as much pleasure and satisfaction as it does to everyone else connected with Ron's Fund.

Our team for 2004 was notable for ten last minute withdrawals through injury, but 25 runners represented us on the day, their times ranging from 3:12 to over 5 hours. Our appreciation and thanks go to each and every one of them for all their efforts on our behalf.



Some of the eleven runners who came to our training run at Welwyn Garden City before the London Marathon. From the left, David Park, Christine Murray (who led the run riding her bike!), Matt Green, Jean Pickering (who waited for them to return!) Karen Illott, Jon Hellyar and Naomi Ashcroft (a former World Champion Sculler)

Our thanks to **David Ferguson** and **Nick Hughes** of the Henley Standard who responded to David Vine's invitation to find some runners by taking part themselves! At the end of two weeks they had found another three—Naomi Ashcroft, John Moberley and John Chilton, who unfortunately had to withdraw through injury but has claimed his place for 2005.

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We await sponsorship from 13 runners, but so far we have received more than £15,000 including some from those injured. Gerry Evans injured his knee in a ski-ing accident but persuaded his wife Marian to take over and raised £1,250.

It is another marathon trying to collect in the sponsorship but as soon as the final total is known you will be notified and also how many young athletes have benefited from your efforts.

### An Unusual Way to Train for the Marathon



For the second time, **Karen Illott** ran for our charity in the London Marathon and used her training runs from her Amersham home to exercise six dogs.

**Meirion Morris**, a retired headmaster, has been a friend of the Pickering family since teaching daughter Kim in Primary School.



In spite of operations on both knees, he completed his first ever marathon and was still smiling at the finish, but he lost his Welsh daffodil on the way round!!

For the second year, in March the Fund assisted the BUSA cross country teams to travel to Italy for the World University Championships. Congratulations to **Louise Damen**, who won the silver medal, and with **Kate Reed, Collette Fagan, Faye Fullerton** and **Freya Murray** achieved victory in the women's team championship.

**Trustees:** Jean & Shaun Pickering, David Coleman, Lynn Davies, John Lister, Tom McNab, Stuart Storey, David Vine

## IN MEMORIAM

This year our sport lost two of its brightest young stars through fatal accidents - **Sam Haughian** and **Edward Prickett**. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to their parents at this sad time.



Ed's family asked that donations in his memory should be sent to our charity and the response has been overwhelming with donations arriving almost daily.

It is obvious Ed was a remarkable young man who made a tremendous impression on everyone and has left behind so many lasting memories. It is hoped that eventually his parents will share our satisfaction at the success achieved by youngsters who will be helped to develop their potential in Ed's memory.

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Another car accident took the life of **Ann Simmons**, of Medway & Maidstone AC. Ann was a passionate and dedicated enthusiast of athletics who devoted so much of her time to helping people, both young and old. She will be greatly missed by the athletic fraternity and the community around her. The donations in her memory will continue the encouragement she gave to young athletes of this country.

**Surprise Donations**, among many others, have arrived from **UKA staff** who decided not to send Xmas cards last year and donated the £1,405 saved to our charity; and from **Athletics Weekly** who passed on the donations they received for copies of published photographs..