

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Herbert 'Herbie' Roberts

19th February 1905 - 19th June 1944

Association Football - Centre Half



Herbie Roberts 1936

Born in Oswestry in 1905, Herbie Roberts, tall, auburn-haired and ideally built for football, first played as an amateur for Oswestry Town at right half in the defensive mid-field.

In December 1926, the famous Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman persuaded Roberts to turn professional and join Arsenal for a transfer fee of £200. Although he made his debut against Aston Villa on 18 April 1927, Roberts was not a regular in his first 2 seasons at the club and played only 5 games.

In response to changes in the offside rule in 1925, Arsenal pioneered changes to their team formation, creating a defensive centre half position, a 3rd full back to block the gap in between the 2 full backs and link up with the inside forwards; Roberts fitted into the position perfectly. This became known as the "WM" formation in which Roberts became known as the "stopper" or the "policeman", rarely moving upfield.

Finishing only in 14th place in the league in the 1929-30 season, Arsenal fared better in the FA Cup that year, progressing to the final where they beat Huddersfield Town 2-0, although Roberts was prevented by injury from taking part. Roberts became the undisputed first choice centre

half for Arsenal. "Off the field Herbie was a gentleman, shy and unassuming, on the field he was known as Policeman Roberts whose main aim was to blot out and stop the opponents' centre-forward and these policies made him into one of the most unpopular players the length and breadth of the country." considers author Jeff Harris. Whilst opposition fans may have seen him as guilty of overly negative play, Roberts was the model for all defenders until the 4-4-2 formation came along with, effectively, 2 central defenders.

A Highbury favourite, Roberts made 30 appearances for each season up until 1936-37, winning 4 First Division titles and an FA Cup Winner's medal in 1935-36. Roberts also won a single international cap for England in a match against Scotland in March 1931.

Roberts struggled with injuries throughout his long and successful career and a broken leg forced him to retire from the game early in the 1937-38 season. He had played in 335 league and cup games for Arsenal and scored 5 goals. After retirement, Roberts worked as a trainer to Arsenal's reserve side.

On the breakout of World War II, Roberts joined the Royal Fusiliers and served as a lieutenant. He died whilst on duty on 19th June 1944 at the age of 39 from erysipelas, an acute streptococcus bacterial infection.

Years	Team
1922-1926	Oswestry Town
1926-1937	Arsenal First Division Winner 1930-31, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35 FA Cup Winner 1935-36
1931	England (1)

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbie_Roberts Retrieved 23 May 2012

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/ARSENroberts.htm> Retrieved 23 May 2012

Harris, Jeff & Hogg, Tony (ed.) (1995). "Arsenal Who's Who". Independent Magazines (UK) Ltd

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

George Rowlands Antonio

20th October 1914 - 2nd July 1997

Association Football - Inside Forward



Born George Rowlands in Whitchurch in 1914, Antonio adopted the surname of the Italian family who brought him up.

A very capable inside forward or right half, Antonio progressed from Oswestry Technical College and non-League Oswestry Town to play with Bolton Wanderers as an amateur, before joining Colwyn Bay United in September 1935.

Turning professional, Antonio signed for Stoke City in February 1936 making 84 appearances and scoring 13 goals for them before World War II brought Football League fixtures to a halt. As many players signed up to fight in the war, the teams who continued to play were depleted and often fielded guest players.

Antonio guested for several clubs during the war, including Nottingham Forest in 1939-40, 1940-41 and in 1941-42 and Leeds United in early 1944. In the 1945-46 season, he guested for Ipswich Town. Other clubs Antonio guested for included: York City in 1939-40; Aldershot in 1943-44 and in 1944-45; Clapton Orient in 1944-45; Norwich City in 1945-46; Notts County in 1942-43 and 1943-44; Wrexham in 1939-40, 1941-42 and in 1944-45. Antonio also guested for his own club Stoke City, once in 1939-40, and then in the final wartime season of 1945-46, when he scored 7 times in 16 games, as things started to return to normal for the 1946-47 season.

After the war, Antonio rejoined Stoke City before being transferred to Derby County in March 1947 where he played 18 matches, scoring twice. In October 1948, he signed to Doncaster Rovers, appearing 34 times and scoring 7 goals, before signing for Mansfield Town for £7,000 a year later where he stayed until July 1951 playing 67 times, and scoring twice, before the end of his League career.

Antonio, however, was not going to give up playing, and returned to his first club, non-League Oswestry Town, in July 1951 where he became Player-Manager. He joined Wellington Town as Player-Coach in July 1954, and was Player-Manager there from January 1955 until January 1957. He moved to Stafford Rangers as Player-Manager in September 1957 before rejoining Oswestry Town once more as Player-Coach in July 1958, becoming Player-Manager in June 1959, a position he held until June 1962.

Antonio's final club was the Welsh club Berriew where he was Player-Manager in 1963-64. The club held a memorable testimonial for him in 1968, attracting a huge crowd as Sir Stanley Matthews, alongside whom he had played at Stoke City, brought a Port Vale team to play. He is further remembered by Berriew with the George Antonio Trophy, which has been presented to the club's player of the year since 2007.

Years	Team
	Oswestry Town
	Bolton Wanderers
1935-1936	Colwyn Bay United
1936-1946	Stoke City
1946-1947	Derby County
1948-1949	Doncaster Rovers
1949-1951	Mansfield Town
1951-1954	Oswestry Town
1954-1957	Wellington Town
1957-1958	Stafford Rangers
1958-1962	Oswestry Town
1963-1964	Berriew

George Antonio died in Oswestry in 1997.

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://www.ozwhitelufc.net.au/players_profiles/A/AntonioGR.php Retrieved 23rd May 2012

<http://www.mansfieldtown.net/page/HallOfFameDetail/0,,10325~1969101,00.html> Retrieved 24th May 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

William Henry Davies

1855 – 14th November 1916

Association Football - Inside Forward

William Henry Davies was born in Oswestry in 1855 where he lived most of his life. After school, Davies worked in the office of the County Court Registrar before becoming a solicitors' accounts clerk. Later he became the part-time Registrar of Births and Deaths in Oswestry.

Davies was a pioneer of football in the town, and first played for Oswestry St Oswalds, the first football club established in the town, becoming team captain.

On 4 September 1875, he was present at a meeting at the Queen's Hotel to form an association football club, as an off-shoot of the cricket club, to represent the town. This was the birth of the Oswestry town club, later to evolve as Oswestry Town. Davies was one of the founder members and became the new club's first secretary. At a meeting held on 2 February 1876 at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel in Wrexham, initially to formalise the arrangements for the forthcoming match against



W H Davies is 2nd from the left in the back row of this photo of the 1883-84 Welsh Cup winning Oswestry team, taken outside the pavilion at the Victoria Road ground (the Cricket Field), their home ground.

Scotland, Oswestry became one of the founder members of the Football Association of Wales a rare achievement for an English club.

Later that month, Davies was selected to play in that first team to represent Wales on 25 March 1876 in the match against Scotland at Hamilton Crescent, Partick. With Davies playing at outside right in a 2-2-6 formation, the Welsh were well defeated losing 4-0.

Davies was described as "equally at home as a forward or half back (who) could pass the ball accurately and possessed good dribbling skills"; he

was also sometimes criticized for selfishness, although "his presence as a forward always meant danger for opposing defences."

In 1879, local rival team Druids were without a ground and several of their players spent the season with Oswestry, so that for the first international match between Wales and England on 18 January 1879, 8 Oswestry players, including Davies, were selected to play for Wales. The match was played at a snow-covered Kennington Oval, London in atrocious weather conditions with the team captains agreeing to play only 30 minutes in each half. England scored twice in the first half, with Davies scoring his country's first international goal, in the 47th minute. Wales lost 2-1.

In the 1883-84 season, Davies helped Oswestry to the final of the Welsh Cup where they defeated Druids 1-0 in a replay.

Davies was also a keen cricketer and played for Shropshire between 1882 and 1893, before the birth of the modern county club, making nearly 40 appearances for the county as wicket-keeper.

He died in Oswestry on 14 November 1916.

Years	Team
	Oswestry St Oswalds
	Oswestry Town
	Welsh Cup Winner 1883-84
1876-1880	Wales (4)

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Davies_\(footballer_born_1855\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Davies_(footballer_born_1855)) Retrieved 24th May 2012

Davies, Gareth; Garland, Ian (1991). *Who's Who of Welsh International Soccer Players*. Bridge Books

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Edward Glyn James

b 17th December 1941

Association Football - Centre Half



Glyn James was born in Llangollen in December 1941 but spent his boyhood in Shropshire. Educated at Oswestry Boys' High School, and a contemporary of Alan Ball, James played for the school team as well as Gobowen Juniors and the Druids club.

In December 1957, James joined Blackpool as a trainee and turned professional as a 17 year old centre or inside forward in May 1959, making his debut in September 1960 for the team where he was to spend his whole professional career.

By 1963, James became a first team regular at centre half; an extended run in the team in 1964-65 saw him earn his first Welsh U23 cap in November 1964, playing against England at Wrexham, when Blackpool team mate Alan Ball played in the English attack.

In 1965 he played in 35 League matches and took part in a tour of New Zealand and the Far East with Blackpool.

On 22 January 1966, James scored his first goal, against Manchester City, in the FA Cup third round. He made his 100th appearance for Blackpool that season and went on the Welsh international tour of South America making his

full international debut against Brazil, including the great Pele.

During 1976-70, James was a strong presence in the Blackpool side who suffered both relegation then promotion and was named the Blackpool's Player of the Year in 1970 for his outstanding consistency. However, the subsequent 1970-71 season was a disaster for Blackpool, and they were relegated straight back to Division Two.

James was selected for all 3 Home International Championship matches in 1971, and although he was voted one of the outstanding successes of the championships, further international opportunities were limited by the presence of contemporary Welshman Mike England, and James made no further appearances for Wales.

Moved to the forward line for the first part of 1971-72, James scored 6 goals in those 15 games, but the arrival of Keith Dyson, and the team's habit of losing by the odd goal, meant that he was moved back into defence, and Blackpool went on to finish sixth. James took over the captaincy of the team from Jimmy Armfield during that season and made his 350th appearance for the club.

In his final season, 1974-75, James made 12 league appearances, helping Blackpool to a top 10 finish for the 4th consecutive season. He made his final appearance on 18 January 1975.

Years	Team
	Gobowen Juniors
	Druids
1957-1974	Blackpool
1965-1971	Wales (9)

James retired from football as a complete professional and a great clubman, having made 399 appearances for Blackpool.

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glyn_James Retrieved 25th May 2012
Glyn James Testimonial Match Programme 1973

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Charles Frederick 'Charlie' Parry

1870 - 4th February 1922

Association Football - Half Back/Full Back



Born in Llansilin, near Oswestry in 1870, Parry joined Chester St Oswalds from where he was signed by Everton in 1889. Parry made his Everton League debut in the first match of 1889-90, the Football League's second season. Parry was ever-present as Everton finished runners up.

Parry was a versatile player who was equally comfortable at full or half back, and had good positional sense, a strong tackle and good speed. A free kick expert, over 60 yards he was able to place the ball "on the required spot". His reputation for "bashing goalkeepers" did not stop him becoming a regular in the Everton side for 6 years and an "exceedingly popular player".

Parry spent the early part of 1890-91 in the reserves, but, after being recalled, he played most of the rest of the season as Everton were champions of the Football League for the first time.

After playing at left half in the first match of the 1891-92 season, Parry again lost his regular place and in October 1891 he requested to leave the club and the board agreed to release him if he could find another team to compensate Everton. In December 1892, Parry was re-engaged by Everton and returned to the first team at left back in January 1893, although he was not selected to play in any of the cup matches which saw Everton reach the final of the FA Cup that year.

In September 1893, Parry was suspended for 2 weeks without pay, and could not get back into a settled first team until 23 December. After a run of 4 defeats, Parry lost his place again and, in March, was in trouble with the board "for not attending training etc" and was suspended for a fortnight with his bonuses revoked, and only recalled for the last 2 matches of the season.

The 1894-95 season saw Parry make the left back position his own and he missed only 3 matches as Everton finished League runners-up. Parry only made 2 appearances for Everton in the 1895-96 season; his final appearance coming in a loss to Aston Villa on 30 September 1895.

In autumn 1895, Parry made a short-lived move to Manchester City, failing to appear for them, and returned to Wales in December 1895 when he took a public house in Newtown and joined his local club helping Newtown reach the final of the Welsh Cup in 1897.

Parry made 13 appearances for Wales, making his debut, at left half in the 1891 match against England. Parry's best match for Wales came in the draw against England in March 1895, and, for the next 3 matches, Parry was appointed captain. In 1899, Parry joined Aberystwyth Town. Despite playing non-League football, Parry retained his international place until 1898.

Returning to his home town in 1900, Oswestry United were in need of a goalkeeper and Parry kept goal for them before eventually retiring in 1906.

Sadly, Parry had fallen on hard times and was the beneficiary of two further testimonial matches. Parry's health continued to deteriorate and he died on 4 February 1922, aged 51, leaving a widow and 6 children.

Years	Team
1889	Chester St Oswalds
1889-1895	Everton First Division Winner 1890-91 First Division Runner-up 1889-90, 1894-95
1895	Ardwick (Manchester City)
1895-1899	Newtown Welsh Cup Finalist 1897
1899-1900	Aberystwyth Town Welsh Cup Winner 1900
1900-1906	Oswestry United
1891-1898	Wales (13)

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Parry Retrieved 28 May 2012

http://www.evertonfc.com/stats/?mode=player_details&player_id=566 Retrieved 28 May 2012

Davies, Gareth; Garland, Ian (1991). *Who's Who of Welsh International Soccer Players*. Bridge Books

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

John Godfrey Parry-Thomas

6th April 1884 - 3rd March 1927

Engineer and Motor - Racing Driver



John Godfrey Parry-Thomas was born in Wrexham in 1884 and moved near to Oswestry with his family when he was 5 years old when his father became the vicar of Bwlch-y-Cibau. Educated at Oswestry School, he showed an early entrepreneurial streak as he is said to have raffled his sixpence-a-week pocket money at a penny a chance to as many takers as he could find.

Parry-Thomas was fascinated with engineering and went on to study at the City & Guilds Engineering College in London in 1902. After many jobs and groundbreaking designs, he became Chief Engineer at Leyland Motors. In 1917 he and his assistant started to design the Leyland Eight luxury motor car, intended to be the world's finest car and a competitor to Rolls-Royce. Although a technical triumph, it was too expensive to be anything other than a commercial failure and few cars were made.

Parry-Thomas had tested each Leyland Eight to 100 mph before delivery, at a time when the World Land Speed Record (WLSR) was only 124mph! By 1920, this experience persuaded Parry-Thomas to give up his well-paid job and become a full-time motor-racing driver and engineer.

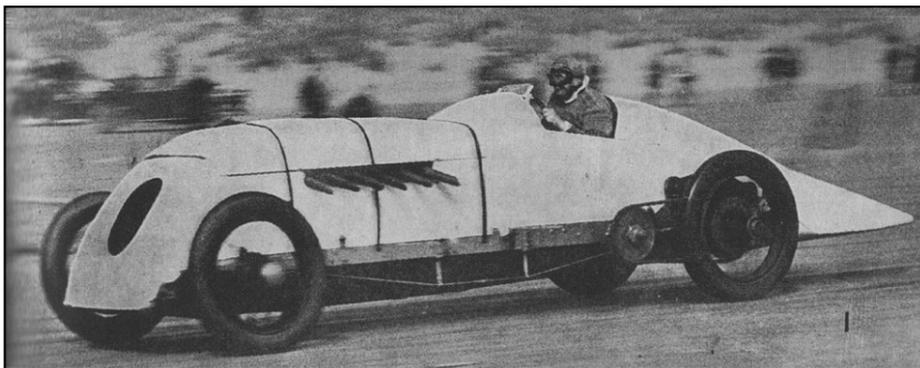
Now living and working at the Brooklands circuit, Parry-Thomas dedicated himself to the life of a motor-racing driver and achieved some success, winning 38 races in 5 seasons and setting numerous records, driving the Leyland-Thomas and Thomas Special cars.

By 1925 Parry-Thomas realised that commercial success required a higher profile than Brooklands could offer, and directed his attention to the WLSR in competition with Malcolm Campbell and Henry Segrave. Without Campbell's money and prestige, and Segrave's factory connections, Parry-Thomas bought the incomplete Higham Special car from the estate of Count Zborowski for £125, and spent another £650 to make it a serious contender as one of the first cars dedicated to the record alone rather than circuit competition.

By April 1926, renamed 'Babs', the car was finally complete and a few days later, despite the poor conditions and soft, wet sand, 'Babs' was taken to the 6-mile beach at Pendine Sands, Wales where Parry-Thomas took the WLSR with a speed of 169.30 mph. The following day, 28 April 1926, he went above 170 mph, a record that stood for almost a year.

1926 was Parry-Thomas' greatest year; as well as numerous race wins he twice broke the mile and kilometre WLSR then went on to break another 8 speed records in October.

In January 1927, Campbell achieved a top speed of 174.883 mph to retake the WLSR on the same beach. On 3 March 1927, feeling unwell, but knowing his competitors were planning fresh attempts, Parry-Thomas returned to Pendine to attempt the record. On his final run the right-hand drive chain broke at a speed of around 175 mph, fatally injuring Parry-Thomas.



Babs at Pendine in 1926

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._G._Parry-Thomas Retrieved 26 May 2012

<http://www.bwlch-y-cibau.com/parrythomas.html> Retrieved 26 May 2012

Oakley, Richard R (1957) "A History of Oswestry School" Seeley Service & Co

<http://ericdymock.blogspot.co.uk/2010/11/back-to-future.html> Retrieved 26 May 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Stephen Davies b 4th February 1958 Long Distance Runner

Born in Oswestry in 1958, Stephen took up running at the age of 23 during the 'jogging boom' that followed the first London Marathon in March 1981 and started to train 3 times a week.

Stephen entered his first race, the Oswestry 10 mile road race, on 16 May 1982, finishing in 74 minutes and 40 seconds; the start of a running career he enjoys to this day. Running his first marathon in Sheffield later that year, Stephen finished in 3 hours 32 minutes and improved his time by 2 minutes in the Nottingham marathon 3 months later.

Joining the Berry Hill Mansfield Athletics Club in November 1982, he started to compete in cross country and track races, moving to the newly formed Mansfield Running Club in 1986 to focus on road running. Stephen had now reduced his marathon time to 2 hours 36 minutes.

Still coaching himself, Stephen ran 3 marathons in 1988, the last being in a time of 2 hours 28 minutes, before getting in touch with Bud Baldaro, a National Marathon Coach at the well known Tipton Harriers Club in the West Midlands, to start to develop himself into a marathon runner.



Stephen running for Mansfield in a local road race, May 2012

During 1989, Stephen lowered his marathon time to 2 hours 25 minutes and 55 seconds. However, in the 1990 London Marathon, 9 years after the event that inspired him to take up running, Stephen ran a lifetime best of 2 hours 22 minutes and 55 seconds. He was rewarded for this performance with a trip to the Berlin Marathon later that year to represent Great Britain (GB) where he finished 60th in 2 hours 24 minutes 18 seconds, the 4th placed British athlete.

In September 1991, Stephen represented the Midlands AAA's in The Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon running a lifetime best of 1 hour 8 minutes 20 seconds finishing 13th overall. Stephen continued this good form with his first ever marathon win at Chesterfield in a time of 2 hours 29 minutes and 13 seconds

Stephen was again selected to run for GB in 1992 in the Hong Kong to Shenzhen Marathon, finishing in 9th place with a time of 2 hours 25 minutes and 07 seconds, helping GB to the team win.

In 1995 both Mansfield clubs amalgamated and Stephen rejoined taking with him everything that he had been coached and learnt during his very successful 7 years with Bud and Tipton Harriers.

1998 brought veteran status for Stephen and he started to compete for the North Wales Area team in Cross Country and Road Running, as he still does, representing them on 25 occasions to date. He has also represented GB twice in the Marathon at the World Masters Track & Field Championships in San Sebastian 2005 and Rimini 2007.

To date Stephen has completed 1,150 races of which 52 have been marathons (highlights include London 20 [times], New York 2, Chicago, the 100th Boston Marathon in 1996 and Reims 4) and 102 half marathons. Through all of which he has been supported by his wife Angela.

He continues to be a member of Mansfield Harriers & Athletics Club where he is a coach, team manager for road, track official and committee member.

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

Account by Stephen Davies May 2012

Personal Best Times for Road Races	
5km	15 minutes 20 seconds
5 miles	26 minutes 5 seconds
10km	31 minutes 4 seconds
10 miles	51 minutes 40 seconds
Half mile	1 hour 8 minutes 20 seconds
20 miles	1 hour 48 minutes 30 seconds
Marathon	2 hours 22 minutes 55 seconds

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Harry Weetman

25th October 1920 - 19th July 1972

Professional Golfer

Harry Weetman was born just after the First World War to a working class family at Queens Head. Family legend has it that he used to jump the fence by the canal onto the golf course to get balls that he sold back to the pro shop and so bought his first clubs.

Starting out as a forester before the days of chainsaws, his skills with an axe made him stand out as a golfer known for his strength and the length of his drives. During World War II, he served in the Welsh Regiment 6th Armoured division. He would never speak about this time.

In 1949 he won the Hertfordshire tournament and the Assistant Professionals Championship. In 1950 he was the PGA Match Play Champion and in 1951 the youngest Ryder Cup team member.

Harry moved from Oswestry to Hartsbourne Manor and from there to Croham Hurst in South London where he set a course record and equalled the world record with a round of 58 which still stands today. Finally, he moved just a few miles to the prestigious Selsdon Park Hotel.

Harry was one of the first Europeans to play the US circuit where, at this time, the Americans played a larger ball, although the same weight. Harry's strength made it easier for him to adapt to it, and, on his return playing with the smaller ball, his reputation as a big-hitter was born.

Harry's wife Freda, a successful golfer and businesswoman in her own right, became Harry's business manager. A female manager was unheard of in golfing circles, the preserve of men. Women were generally not allowed in the clubhouse unaccompanied, if at all. Harry and Freda were bound to rub the establishment up the wrong way at some point.



Harry & Freda with the golfer & good friend Henry Cotton

After one tournament win, Harry and Freda were entering the clubhouse for the presentation only to be told politely that wives were not permitted. Arguing that Freda was his manager cut no ice, so Harry refused to enter. Freda was eventually admitted but the establishment took their revenge. Following a disagreement with Ryder Cup captain Dai Rees, Harry was fined and suspended. Refusing to pay, he was told the suspension would stand until the fine was paid. The press kept the battle in the public eye, and the appearance of the management of the sport left some people feeling very uncomfortable. The impasse was broken when the fine was paid anonymously. However the genie was out of the bottle and golf would never be the same again.

Harry's final honour was to be made Ryder Cup captain in 1965 by the very establishment that had railed against him.

Harry was always safety conscious and bought a Rolls Royce as he argued that there was a lot of car in front of the driver. After one day at Lingfield races, he asked a friend to drive him home. His friend was however unable to handle a Rolls and the car left the road, hit a bank and Harry was fatally injured. He had played his part in moving the game from a sport of the privileged few, into the modern popular sport for all. He was just 51.

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

Account by Keith Weetman May 2012

Obituary: The Times Newspaper 20 July 1972

Career:

Weetman won many tournaments on the British PGA circuit in the pre-European Tour era.

Professional wins: 11

Best Results in Major Championships 1949-1968:

Masters Tournament: Tied 34 - 1960

The Open Championship: Tied 5 - 1955 and top 10 place 6 times

Ryder Cup Campaigns: 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963 Captain 1965

Other Achievements and Awards:

Harry Vardon Trophy 1952, 1956

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Anji Holly Gemma Weetman

b 4th October 1987

Long Jumper and Heptathlete



Born in Shrewsbury in 1987, Gemma Weetman had her first taste of running when, as a pupil at Whittington Primary School, she ran in the Oswestry & District Primary Schools Cross Country competition. Afraid of coming last, Gemma plucked up the courage in time to enter the 2nd meeting and came 5th. After the final meeting, local coach Arnie Wray recommended that Gemma join Oswestry Olympians, the local athletics club, and in April the following year, she started training at the Park Hall track and loved it all from the moment she arrived. Specialising at first in the middle distance events such as the 600m, she always trained and competed in a variety of events; drifting between Cross Country and longer distances and the Long Jump as she grew older.

Whilst a pupil at The Marches School, Gemma first competed at the English Schools' Athletic Association Championships in the Long Jump event in Nottingham in 2002 coming 2nd with a distance of 5.29m. In the same year, she competed in her first English Schools Combined Event in Derby where she came 24th in the Junior Girls Pentathlon.

The following year, now up in the Intermediate age group, Gemma suffered from a stress fracture to her back forcing her to miss 3 months training, but was back to fitness in time to compete in both English Schools' events in 2003, coming 6th and 15th respectively.

Gemma's first international competition came in 2004 when she competed in the English Schools' Internationals in July and December.

In 2005, her first year in the Senior age group, Gemma won 2 English Schools' medals, including her first Gold in the Heptathlon. 2006 was her most successful year, winning Gold in both the Long Jump and the Heptathlon events at the English Schools leading to her first GB selection for the U20 team in Paris in the Indoor Pentathlon. Gemma won this event with a performance which placed her 5th overall in the all time U20 rankings. She competed again for GB in Switzerland in the Heptathlon where she achieved an individual Bronze and team Gold.

Gemma moved down to London in 2007 to study Sports Science at Brunel University training at the Lee Valley High Performance Centre under the supervision of Greg Richards. With a first class honours degree, she now lectures foundation degree students, as well as running and coaching a college athletics programme.

In 2012 so far she has won the National Indoor Pentathlon and Bronze in the National Indoor Long Jump championship, represented GB in Tenerife in May 2012 coming 4th in the Heptathlon with a PB in the Shot and overall score. Her present coach is Julie Hollman (GB Heptathlete). Aiming to improve upon both of these this year, Gemma hopes to get to a major championship competition within the next couple of years.

Gemma thanks "those that encouraged me to get into athletics, as well as the fantastic club Oswestry Olympians and all those that assist within the club. I would recommend to everyone to try all sports; like me you may be afraid to try and scared you will fail, however, it could be the best decision you ever make."

Club:

Oswestry Olympians

Personal Bests:

Long Jump 6.22m

Heptathlon 5,427 pts

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

Account by Gemma Weetman May 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Charles Emrys Jones

1st November 1931 - 7th September 2011

Lightweight Boxer



Emrys Jones was born in Llanfechain in November 1931. During World War II, Emrys' father, a farm labourer, moved his family to a small rented farm next to Emrys' grandparents. Leaving school after the War, aged 14, Emrys went to work on the farm for Tommy Jones.

Although he could remember getting up at 3 o'clock in the morning, at the age of 7 or 8, to listen to a fight on the radio between two of his heroes, Joe Louis and the Welsh champion Tommy Farr, Emrys drifted into boxing only after leaving school. "I started knocking about with the local lads. Just sparring." he said, "We used second hand gloves and gave each other bloody noses, but it was fun."

The lads' enthusiasm and growing skills encouraged Emrys to join organised clubs under the guidance of mentor and coach Billy Roberts of Pant at Trefonen, Queens Head and later at Four Crosses.

In 1948 Emrys turned professional under unusual circumstances. Emrys and Llanymynech fighter Terill Evans had gone to Welshpool where their opponents failed to turn up as arranged for their bouts, so it was decided that they would fight each other, and Emrys won.

After an exhibition fight in Shrewsbury in 1949, his reputation as a knock-out boxer was born with a first round victory over George Higgs in the Newtown Pavilion starting a run of 14 KOs in 22 bouts. His professional career took him to boxing venues all over the country. Like many in those days, Emrys was never a professional in the true sense and continued to supplement his earnings from fighting by labouring back on the farm. He would return home from a bout in the early hours of the morning in time to get up at the break of dawn for work the next day.

In September 1955, Emrys won the Welsh lightweight title with a victory over title holder Willie Lloyd over 12 rounds in Camarthen, the highlight of his career, which earned him just £52.

Emrys made many pals through his boxing career. Contemporary fighters from the Oswestry area included Doug Jones, Dick Grindley, Arthur Lewis, Eddie Farmer and Bernard Thomas. Sadly, Emrys fought only 4 more times after winning his title before rheumatism in his back forced him to retire within a year, at the age of 27. Over his 7 year career, Emrys fought 65 times in all, drawing 10 with the remaining bouts fairly evenly divided between wins and losses. After he retired, he attended only one bout but left before the end and never went to another; the break from boxing was total.

Emrys continued to labour on the farm until foot and mouth hit the industry when he went to work at Whittington Dairy and then the Cheese Company until he retired.

Emrys died in September 2011 aged 79 when his early love of boxing was remembered at his funeral with donations going, in part, to the Oswestry Ringside Gym.

Career:	
Professional Boxer 1948-1955	
Welsh Lightweight Champion September 1955	
Boxing Record (after 1951) (1)	
Total fights	45
Wins	19
Wins by KO	13
Losses	21
Draws	5
No contests	0

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

"Valley Profile", Interview with Mavis Nicholson, Undated

The Advertizer, Interview with Peter Danby, April 21, 1999

http://www.johnnyowen.com/Recs/Li/emrys_jones.html Retrieved 10 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Timothy Andrew Lloyd

b 5th November 1956

First Class Cricketer - Left Handed Bat

Born in Oswestry in 1956, Andy Lloyd attended Oswestry Boys' High School and then Dorset College. A left-handed bat, he played locally for Whittington and Oswestry Clubs.

Spotted playing in a Shropshire U25 side, Lloyd joined the Warwickshire Second XI side in 1977, playing in the Birmingham League. Showing a good attitude and application to improving his game, Lloyd broke into the Warwickshire First XI in 1978.

In 1983, Lloyd was rewarded for consistent scoring at the top of the order when he was called up as England Twelfth man for a Test match in 1983.

In 1984 Lloyd played for the MCC before being selected to play for England against the touring West Indies team when he top-scored in 2 of the 3 ODIs played before the Test series.

Lloyd then became the first Shropshire-born cricketer to play in a home test match when, at the age of 26, he made his Test debut on his home ground at Edgbaston. Opening the batting, he had made 10 runs and batted for 33



Andy Lloyd at Oswestry Cricket Club

Oswestry Advertiser

minutes, when he was struck on the head by a short ball from West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall. Despite wearing a helmet, Lloyd spent several days in hospital with blurred vision, and played no further cricket in 1984. Although he was enduringly consistent for Warwickshire, he never played for England again and is the only Test Match opening batsman never to have been dismissed.

Lloyd was club captain from 1988 leading Warwickshire to NatWest Trophy final victory in 1989.

He retired from playing in 1992 having made a total of 17,211 runs in all first-class cricket with 29 centuries and taking 23 wickets.

First Class Teams:

Warwickshire (1977-1992), Orange Free State (1978/79, 1979/80), Marylebone Cricket Club (1984), England (Test & ODI 1984)

Career Statistics

Batting and fielding averages

	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
Tests	1	1	1	10	10*	-	17	58.82	0	0	1	0	0	0
ODIs	3	3	0	101	49	33.66	228	44.29	0	0	3	0	0	0
First-Class	312	547	45	17211	208*	34.28			29	87			147	0
List A	287	271	26	7562	137*	30.86			2	56			62	0

Bowling averages

	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	10
Tests	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ODIs	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
First-Class	312		2333	1682	23	3/7		73.13	4.32	101.4	0	0	0
List A	287		313	309	5	2/37	2/37	61.80	5.92	62.6	0	0	0

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/england/content/player/16322.html> Retrieved 8 June 2012

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Lloyd_%28cricketer%29 Retrieved 8 June 2012

Andy Lloyd Benefit Year Programme 1990

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Fionn Griffiths

b 27th August 1982

Mountain Bike Racer



Born in Shrewsbury in 1982, Fionn attended Baschurch Primary School and The Corbett School before gaining a BTEC National Diploma in Sport Science at Shrewsbury College of Arts & Technology.

It was in 1998, that Fionn first pointed a bike downhill and discovered a natural aptitude for downhill's adrenalin inducing racing. Competing on her paper-round bicycle, bought with earnings from delivering the Shropshire Star, that competition at Hawkstone Park was just the start; six months later, Fionn had won her first British National Championship.

As Fionn trained to become competitive at National competitions, her father Keith built her a bike with suspension enabling her to pursue her dream of becoming a successful Downhill (DH) and Four-Cross (4X) mountain bike racer. During Fionn's career, engineering developments in off-road bikes has moved mountain biking from the domain of the enthusiast to the world of the precision-engineered leisure industry. In addition to riding, Fionn's role has been to raise product profile and contribute technical feedback to aid on-going development.

Since 1999, Fionn has been pleased to represent several bicycle and component development teams, currently, in 2012, TeamGR/KTM. On partnering with Norco Bicycles in 2008, Fionn made the step to form GR Management, offering marketing opportunities to potential Team GR sponsors from within, and external to the cycle industry.



Fionn taking a banked turn

Photo Team GR

Fionn Griffiths is an International competitor. Previous years' competitions have included racing in Japan, Oceania and South America. In 2012, the UCI World Cup series rounds are in Europe, South Africa, and North America where Fionn will represent Team GR/KTM as well as the other team co sponsors. During 2012 Fionn is required to qualify for the British Cycling mountain bike team, allowing her to defend her 2011 World Championship Silver medal position.

Honoured to have represented Great Britain at both junior and senior level, Fionn has competed at all but one Mountain Bike World Championship since 1998. While most athletes never stand on the Elite podium, Fionn Griffiths has an impressive record. She would say "The only time success comes before sweat is in the dictionary".

Racing Record:

World Championship Silver Medals
2011 Champéry, Switzerland (4X)
2002 Kaprun, Austria (DH)
2001 Vail, USA (DH)
World Championship Bronze Medal
2000 Sierra Nevada (DH)

4-cross (4X) World Cup Wins,
2010 Maribor, Slovenia
2009 Bromont, Canada
2009 Vallnord, Andorra
2006 Schladming, Austria

Downhill (DH) World Cup Wins,
2003 Mt Ste Anne, Canada
2003 Grouse Mountain, Canada
10 x UCI World Cup overall Trophies
(awarded for the top 5 athletes in the
World Cup series each year)
40 x UCI World Cup Podiums

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

Account by Fionn Griffiths May 2012

<http://griffithsracing.net/index2.php?v=v1> Retrieved 12 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Alan James Ball Jr. MBE

12th May 1945 – 25th April 2007

Association Football - Midfield



Born in Farnworth in 1945, Ball spent his childhood in Oswestry, where his father, Alan Ball Sr, was player-manager of Oswestry Town FC. He attended Oswestry Boys High School and learned many of his skills at the old Victoria Road ground.

Ball started his footballing career whilst still a schoolboy, playing for Ashton United, a team managed by his father, and signed a youth contract with Wolverhampton Wanderers. After false starts at both Wolves and Bolton (who thought him too small at 5'6" tall to make a footballer), his professional career began at Blackpool in May 1962 where he made his debut in the August at only 17 years and 91 days old.

Selected for Alf Ramsey's England squad in 1965, Ball was the youngest member of the 1966 World Cup team. In the final, Ball produced a terrific personal performance. Full of running, he continued to work and track back while others were exhausted. Ball was seen as an individual success and attracted the attention of a number of bigger clubs. He was sold to Everton for a fee of £112,000 in August 1966 and helped steer Everton to The FA Cup Final in 1968 and the League title in 1970.

He was now a mainstay in the England team and played in the World Cup in Mexico in 1970. In December 1971, Arsenal paid a record fee of £220,000 for the 26 year old. In 1973, in a World Cup Qualifier, Ball became only the 2nd player to be sent off in a full international. He was suspended for the return fixture, which England drew and missed out on the 1974 World Cup Finals.

Although when fit, Ball was a fixture in the Arsenal team, injuries and the break up of the side, saw Arsenal slump; Ball didn't fit with the new boss and in December 1976, he was sold to Southampton for a fee of £60,000.

After helping Southampton back into the First Division in 1978, Ball moved to the North American Soccer League, playing with Philadelphia Fury and Vancouver Whitecaps, where Vancouver won the NASL Championship and Ball won their Most Valuable Player Award.

Returning to Blackpool as player-manager in February 1980, despite Ball's optimism and enthusiasm, their form slumped and Ball was sacked. Although there were short periods playing at Southampton, Hong Kong side Eastern Athletic and Bristol Rovers, Ball ended his playing days in January 1983 after 975 competitive matches in his 21 year career.

Ball received the MBE for his services to sport in 2000.

Alan Ball died on April 25, 2007 of a heart attack, at his home in Hampshire whilst attempting to put out a garden fire that had got out of control. He was 61.

Alan Ball died on April 25, 2007 of a heart attack, at his home in Hampshire whilst attempting to put out a garden fire that had got out of control. He was 61.

Years	Team
1960-1961	Ashton United
1962-1966	Blackpool
1966-1971	Everton First Division Winner 1969-70 FA Cup Finalist 1968
1971-1976	Arsenal First Division Runner Up 1972-73 FA Cup Finalist 1972
1976	→ Hellenic (loan)
1976-1980	Southampton Second Division Runner Up 1977-78 League Cup Finalist 1979
1978, 1979	→ Philadelphia Fury (loans)
1979-1980	Vancouver Whitecaps
1980-1981	Blackpool
1981-1982	Southampton
1982	→ Floreat Athena (loan)
1982-1983	Eastern AA
1983	Bristol Rovers
1965-1975	England (72) World Cup Winner 1966

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Ball,_Jr Retrieved 12 June 2012

Image Courtesy of "The Everton Charitable Trust"

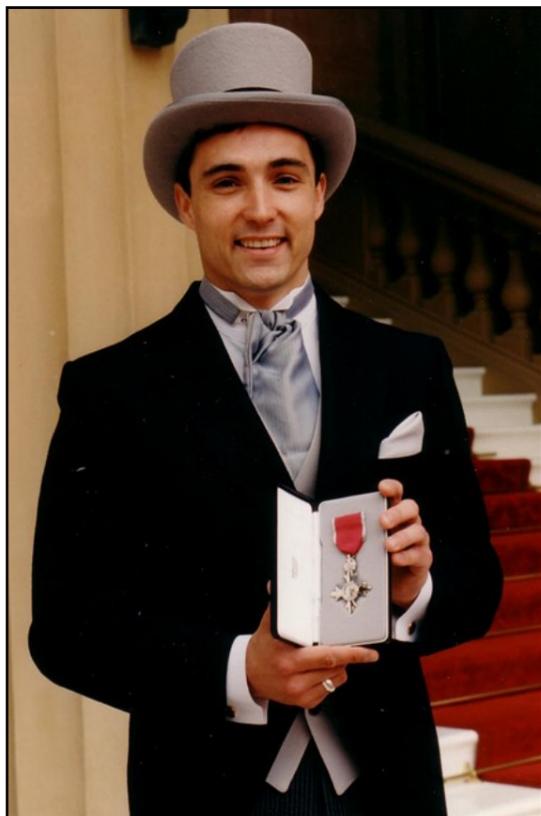
<http://www.shropshirestar.com/latest/2007/04/25/world-cup-hero-alan-ball-dies> Retrieved 14 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Neil Roderick Thomas MBE

b 26th April 1968

Artistic Gymnast



Neil Thomas was born in Chirk in April 1968, later moving to Welshampton with his family where he took up Gymnastics at the age of 9, training in the local community centre with Wem Gymnastics Club. Whitchurch coach Tony White spotted his potential and he was selected for the National Training Squad in Birmingham.

His outstanding natural ability and spatial awareness brought him to the notice of coach Mike Weinstock at the leading North Staffs Gymnastics Club at Burslem where Thomas and his family travelled 70 miles a day, 5 days a week for him to train until he was 18.

Within a year, Thomas was the U12 British champion, the start of a very successful junior career which saw him become a schoolboy international in 1983, and represent Britain in the European Junior Championships in 1984 and 1986. Educated at Thomas Adams School, Wem, at 18, Thomas moved up to the Senior squad and on to the Liverpool School of Physical Education for several years before continuing his training at Lilleshall.

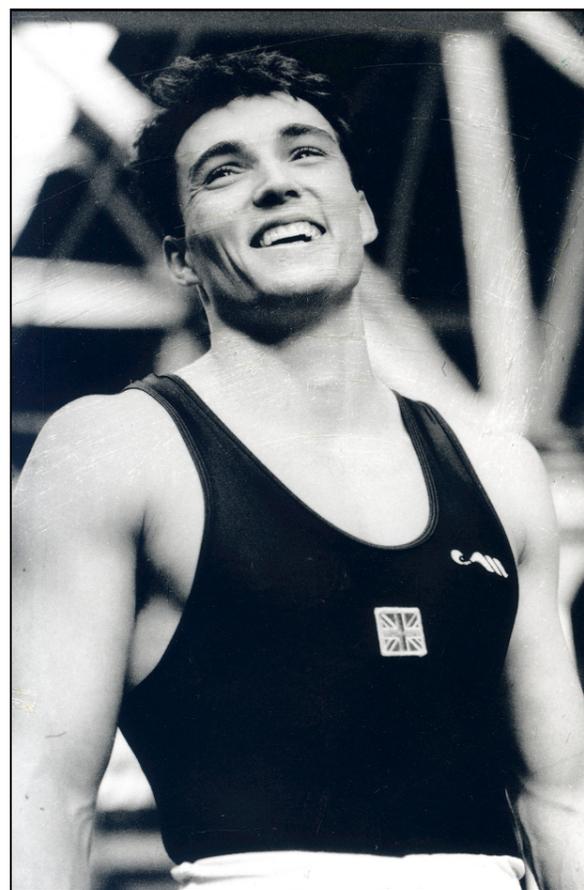
Throughout his career, Thomas showed an explosive and brilliant talent for the Floor exercise and the Vault. From his first major Senior tournament, he won medals regularly for these pieces at top level, but developed his spontaneity, strength and style to become a dynamic all-rounder.

Building on Commonwealth Gold medal success in Auckland on the Floor in 1990, and whilst studying for a Sports Science degree at Liverpool John Moores University from 1993, Thomas entered a purple patch achieving Gold medal Floor and All-round success and a Bronze medal in the Vault at the Victoria Games in 1994. Thomas also won World Championship Silver medals in the Floor event in 1993 in Birmingham (the UK's first ever World Championship medal in artistic gymnastics) and in Brisbane in 1994. He also competed in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, finishing in 20th place. He is one of the most successful British gymnasts of all time and is recognised as having put British Men's Gymnastics on the map in the 1990s, and is still an inspiration to many young British gymnasts today.

For his services to Gymnastics and in recognition of his achievement in raising the profile of British Men's Gymnastics, Thomas was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 1995 New Year Honours.

Thomas carried the flag for the GB team in the World Student Games in 1995 but announced his retirement from International Competition soon after.

Neil Thomas now works as a Family Link Worker in Liverpool.



Major Medal Record

Commonwealth Games

Gold	1990 Auckland	Floor
Gold	1994 Victoria	All-Around
Gold	1994 Victoria	Floor
Bronze	1994 Victoria	Vault

World Championships

Silver	1993 Birmingham	Floor
Silver	1994 Brisbane	Floor

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_Thomas_%28gymnast%29 Retrieved 10 June 2012

Peter Aykroyd. "Thomas is capable of bridging the gap." Times [London, England] 21 May 1990: 31. The Times Digital Archive. Retrieved 13 June 2012.

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Ian Harold Woosnam OBE

b 2nd March 1958

Professional Golfer



Image: IMG Copyright

Born in Oswestry in 1958, Woosnam grew up in nearby St Martin's. A powerful player, Woosnam took up golf at Llanymynech Golf Club, playing as an amateur for Shropshire in regional competitions alongside Sandy Lyle.

Turning professional in 1976, he joined the European Tour in 1979 but his career took off in 1982 when he won the Swiss Open. Woosnam was ranked 8th on the European Tour Order of Merit (leading money winners) that year and finished in the top 10 every year from 1983 to 1991 and again in 1993, 1996, and 1997; 13 times in all. He was top of the list in 1987 (becoming the first player to win £1 million prize money in a single year) and 1990.

In the 1986 Open Championship, Woosnam placed 3rd. Selected as the European Tour Golfer of the Year in 1987, in the December, Woosnam won the BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year Award for the first time, receiving the award again in 1990 and 1991. Reaching the top of the Official World Golf Rankings in 1991, Woosnam stayed there for a total of 50 weeks. In the same year, he won the US Masters Tournament in Atlanta.

From 1992-2001, Woosnam won another 12 tournaments around the world. He was one of the 'Big 5' along with Ballesteros, Faldo, Langer and Lyle who dominated world golf in the 80's and 90's, but in the late 1990s his form began to wane.

Woosnam nearly made a spectacular comeback at The Open Championship in 2001, finishing 3rd despite suffering a 2-stroke penalty for his caddie's mistake in including an extra club in his bag on the final round. His 2001 World Match Play victory meant he was the only player to have won the tournament in 3 different decades.

From 1983-1997, Woosnam was a member of 8 consecutive European Ryder Cup teams. He was a Vice Captain for the 2002 European team and, elected as Captain, he led Europe to victory over the US, winning all 5 sessions in the 2006 Ryder Cup at the K-Club, Ireland.

Woosnam was awarded an OBE in the 2007 New Years Honours List for his services to golf.

Woosnam joined the European Seniors Tour in March 2008, after turning 50, and in July of that year, on his 3rd appearance, he won his first stroke play title in 11 years in a course record of 63 at the Polish Seniors Championship. Woosnam went on to win the European Seniors Tour Order of Merit that year, the only person to have won the Order of Merit on both the European Seniors and regular Tour. He has won 3 further Seniors Tour titles to date.

Ian Woosnam now lives in Jersey.

Number of Wins by Tour:

PGA Tour	2
European Tour	29
European Seniors Tour	4
Other	14

Best Results in Major Championships:

Masters Tournament	Won: 1991
U.S. Open	Tied 2: 1989
The Open Championship	Tied 3: 1986, 2001
PGA Championship	6th: 1989

Ryder Cup Campaigns: 1983, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Captain 2006

Other Achievements and Awards:

European Tour Order of Merit Winner 1987, 1990
European Tour Player of the Year 1987, 1990
Harry Vardon Trophy 1987, 1990

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_woosnam Retrieved 8 June 2012

<http://www.rydercup.com/2006/europe/teaminfo/14.html> Retrieved 8 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Dan, Gee and Rachel Atherton

b 25th January 1982, 26th February 1985 and 6th December 1987

Mountain Bike Racers



Siblings Dan, Gee and Rachel Atherton, professional racing cyclists and the most decorated family in the history of mountain biking, have raced together as a team since 2007. Over the past 5 years, they have seen over 50 professional victories and multiple World titles.

Dan, the eldest, specialises in Downhill and 4X mountain bike racing, and is a former National champion of Great Britain. He began riding BMX at the age of 15 and mountain biking a year later. In 2010 Dan broke a vertebrae in his neck whilst training, a life-threatening ordeal that ruled him out for half of the season including the World Championships. He has now

moved his focus towards Enduro-style events.

Gee specialises in Downhill and 4X mountain bike racing, and is a multiple National champion, multiple World Cup winner and 2010 Downhill World Cup Champion. While Gee has avoided major injury, missing just one World Cup podium from 2008 to 2010, last year 2 mechanicals and one uncharacteristically poor ride kept him out of the top five three times. The middle Atherton is credited as being one of the most progressive riders of all time, enjoying magazine cover and TV appearances. Gee even appeared on BBC's Top Gear, racing a Renault Clio down the streets of Lisbon and winning! Dan, Rachel and Gee star in a reality video web series "The Atherton Project" which follows their day to day lives.

Rachel specialises in Downhill mountain bike racing and is a multiple National champion. She began riding BMX at the age of 8 and mountain biking at the age of 11. In 2005 she was both Sunday Times' Sportswoman of the Year and BBC Midlands Junior Sportswoman of the Year. In 2008 she won both the World Cup series and the Elite UCI Downhill World Championship and received the BBC Midlands Sportswoman of the Year. In January 2009 she was involved in a training accident with a truck in California, sustaining a serious shoulder injury which ruled her out of the 2009 racing season. Returning with a fresh attitude, 2011 saw her consolidate, taking 3rd place in the series and a Silver medal at the Worlds.

In 2012 Dan, Gee, and Rachel joined non-family GT rider Marc Beaumont to form the new team GT Factory Racing.

The Athertons currently live in Llangynog and have their team HQ in Shrewsbury.

Career Highlights

Dan

1st-4X World Cup Rd 2 2008, Andorra
2nd-DH World Cup Rd 3 2005, Willingen
2nd-4X World Cup Rd 7 2008, Schladming
2nd-Maxi Avalanche 2011, Films
2nd-4X World Cup Rd 1 2009, Houffalize
3rd-4X World Cup Rd 6 2009, Bromont
3rd-4X World Cup Rd 5 2007, Maribor
4th Super Enduro Pro 2011, Finale Ligure
6th-DH World Cup Rd 3 2008, Fort William
4X National Champion 2004

Gee

Downhill World Champion 2008, Val Di Sole, Italy.
World Cup DH Series Champion 2010
1st-3 x DH World Cups, 2010. Fort William, Champéry & Windham.
1st-DH World Cup Rd 2 2008, Andorra
1st-4X World Cup Rd1 2007, Vigo
1st-DH World Cup Rd 3 2004, Schladming
2nd-Red Bull Rampage 2010 & 2004
Downhill European Champion 2006
Downhill National Champion 2009

Rachel

Downhill World Champion 2008, Val Di Sole, Italy.
World Cup DH Series Winner 2008
Silver Medal - World Championships 2011, Champéry, Switzerland
1st-DH World Cup 2011 Rd 5, Windham, USA
1st-2 x DH World Cups 2010 Maribor & Windham.
European Champion 2005 & 2006
Junior World Champion 2005
National Champion 2005
Lisbon Downtown Champion 2005 & 2006
Sunday Times Young Sportswoman of the Year 2005
BBC Midlands Sportswoman of the Year 2008

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

<http://www.athertonracing.co.uk/> Retrieved 12 June 2012

<http://www.bicycling.com/mountainbikecom/featured-stories/exclusive-athertons-explain-their-move-gt> Retrieved 14 June 2012

Wikipedia entries for the Atherton family members Retrieved 14 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME



John Ivor Disley CBE

20th November 1928 - 8th February 2016

Long Distance Runner



Born in Corris in November 1928, Disley moved with his family to Gobowen and attended Oswestry Boys High School where his running was limited to annual cross country events and school sports. His athletics career only began as a student in 1946 at Loughborough College when Disley met tutor Geoffrey Dyson, Loughborough's athletics director, who became his mentor.

In the 1949 Welsh Championships, Disley won the first of his 4 Welsh mile titles in a modest time but in 1953, he set a new Welsh record of 4:10.6 improving this on 5 further occasions to end with a best of 4:05.4 in June 1958. In September 1951, Disley broke his own British and Commonwealth record for the 3,000m steeplechase, his main event, with a time of 9:11.6 at a meeting at the White City, London, beating Chris Brasher into 5th place.

Representing GB at the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952, Disley improved his record, the first British athlete to beat 9 minutes, and won the 2nd heat. Sadly, in the final, he came up against the inspired American Horace Ashenfelter and, despite another big improvement on his record, was beaten

into Bronze place, only the 2nd medal to be won by a Welshman in an individual track event.

Disley won 3 AAA steeplechase titles, including the 2 mile event in 1952 in a world's best time (9:44.0). During his career, he set 18 Welsh records at 1,500m, mile, 3,000m, 3,000m and 2 mile steeplechase and 5,000m. Disley was disappointed to finish 13th and 10th respectively in the European Championships in 1950 (Brussels) and 1954 (Berne). In 1952 he was voted British Athlete of the Year and won the Welsh Sports Personality of the Year award in 1955.

The 1956 Melbourne Olympics saw him start as Britain's number one, and although he ran 8:44.6 he only finished 6th in the final won by Chris Brasher in a new British and Olympic record 8:41.2.

The steeplechase, last held in 1934, returned to the Commonwealth Games in 1962. Instead, for the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver in 1954, Disley competed in the 1 mile (finishing 5th in his heat, improving his own Welsh mile record by 1.2 seconds with 4:09.0) and the 3 miles in 1958 in Cardiff when he pulled out with Achilles tendon problems.

From 1951-55, Disley also found time to be a PE teacher at Isleworth Grammar School, leaving to take up the appointment as the first Chief Instructor and Acting Warden of Plas y Brenin, the new Centre for Mountain Activities in Snowdonia. He was a leading pioneer of Orienteering in Britain, breaking the record for the traverse of the Welsh 3,000 foot peaks. Disley received the CBE in 1979 for his work in outdoor education.

Belonging to the generation of runners who revived British athletics after the second world war, in 1981, together with Chris Brasher, he founded the London Marathon, which is still one of the great marathons of the world. Disley died in February 2016, aged 87.

Club: London Athletic Club

Some Achievements:

Olympic Bronze Medal, Helsinki 1952
5 x British Steeplechase records
4 x 2 mile records
19 British vests between 1950 and 1957
Co-founder of the London Marathon
UK Orienteering Pioneer
Founder of Oswestry Olympians
Patron of Oswestry Olympians
Patron of Oswestry Track Appeal
Vice-Patron of Welsh Athletics
Patron of the Snowdonia Society
Personal Best: 8:44.2 v URS Sept 1955

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Disley

<http://www.welshathletics.org/athletes/hall-of-fame/john-disley.aspx>

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/sport/hall-of-fame/inductees/john-disley.html>

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME



Anthony Hughes

b 26th September 1959

Paralympic Athlete and Coach



Born in 1959, Anthony Hughes suffered from Muscular Dystrophy and attended the Derwen College, Gobowen as a student. He stayed on as a teacher and was appointed Head of Department where he enjoyed a lengthy stay. As a wheelchair user, he took up Athletics, specialising in the throwing events and competing as a Shot Putter and Javelin thrower to an elite level.

From 1980, Hughes was part of Team GB, competing in the Paralympic Athlete Shot and Javelin. In 1990 he took the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics World Championships Silver Medal in the Shot in Assen, Holland and went on to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Spain Paralympic Games gaining a top 4 place.

In 1994, Hughes took the 1994 IPC World Championships World Record in Shot in Berlin but retired from competition that year due to a medical injury and became fully focused on coaching.

Whilst at The Derwen, Hughes had started coaching and development across all impairment groups in disability, but he now moved up to Elite level and coached his first Paralympic athlete to a Silver medal in the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta. Since then he has coached, developed or managed over 40 World or International Athletes and attended the last 3 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

Now living in Penarth, Hughes is the National Performance Manager for Disability Sport Wales and heads up the Performance and Excellence Unit based at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff. Within this unit, he is credited with developing the renowned Academy programme which currently has 54 athlete members over 8 Paralympic sports. Of the 31 Welsh athletes in the GB squad at the Beijing Paralympics, 9 of these were first time Paralympians who had passed through the Academy programme.

He is also the Head Coach and National Programme Manager for the Elite Disability Athletics Programme based at the National Indoor Athletics Centre at the University of Wales, Cardiff. He focuses primarily on Athletics Seated Throwers including the javelin star Nathan Stephens, 2011 Gold medal winner at the IPC World Championships in New Zealand and World Record holder, who is a hopeful for the 2012 London Paralympics.

In 2011, for his work with the Academy, Hughes received the prestigious Sport Wales Coach of the Year Award. He also took the award in the Coach to Disabled Performers category and was awarded the 2011 UK Athletics Elite Paralympic Coach of the Year recognising that he has made Wales one of the most successful pound-for-pound nations in world para-sport.

"I strive to be the very best I can be on the world stage, as well as all the people around me," says Hughes.

International Elite Disability Sport Experience

Competed for 9 years as a Shot Putter/Javelin to an Elite level

IPC World Champs 1990 Assen Holland Silver Medal Shot

IPC Paralympic Games 1992 Barcelona Spain Top 4th Place

IPC World Championships Berlin 1994 Medical Out of F52 Shot Final

National Performance Manager, Disability Sport Wales and Head Coach & National Programme Manager for the Elite Disability Athletics Programme

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

<http://www.aleddavies-f42.co.uk/index.php/profile-a-bio/aleds-team> Retrieved 10 June 2012

Account from Gerwyn Owen, Academy Manager, Disability Sport Wales, June 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/wales/15765076> Retrieved 26 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Robert Topham

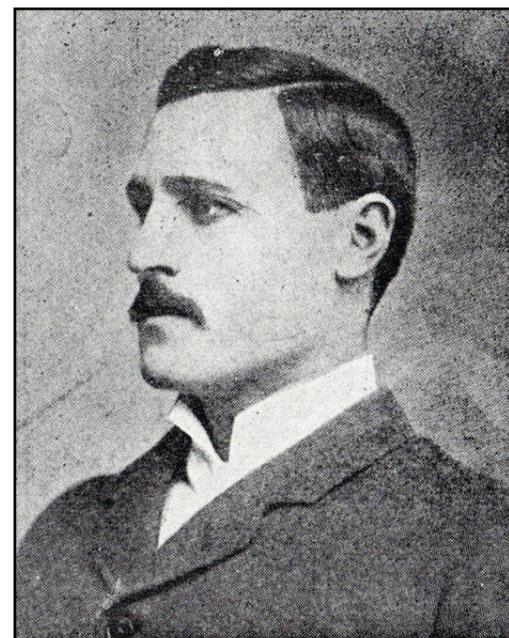
3rd November 1867 - 31st August 1951

Association Football - Outside Right

Robert Topham was born in Ellesmere in 1867 and was educated at Oswestry School from 1878 to 1886. During his time at school he excelled at sport, captaining the school teams at football and cricket.

Playing at Outside Right, Topham was said to be a speedy football player and difficult to contain. Whilst at school, he played for Oswestry FC, Runners Up in the Welsh Cup replay v Druids in 1884-1885 after Topham had scored in the first match at the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham. In the same year, Topham was selected by the Welsh FA to play for Wales v Scotland but declined the opportunity to appear in his first international whilst still a schoolboy.

Topham went up to Keble College, Oxford in 1886 where he was a member of the Keble Football XI from 1886-1889, captaining the team in the last year. Despite representing the university in several first-class matches, Topham did not gain his 'blue', and from 1891-1896, although he remained an amateur throughout his playing career, Topham was registered to play with the professional side Wolverhampton Wanderers, scoring 19 goals in 32 appearances.



The 1893 FA Cup Winners, Wolverhampton Wanderers - Topham front row at the left

The highlight of Topham's Wolves career was the 1892-1893 season when Wolves met Everton in the FA Cup final, winning 1-0 in difficult conditions as the spectators crowded to the very edges of the pitch and impeded the players.

Topham could have been said to have been a gentleman player who dabbled briefly in the world of the working class professional. In the early 1890s, he also played for the London FA teams London Casuals and Chiswick Park, winning an FA Amateur Cup Runners Up medal with Casuals in 1894.

From 1894 to 1898, he was also a member of Corinthians, a club dedicated to the amateur spirit, reputed to be a team of gentlemen. Composed mainly of ex-public school amateurs, they refused to enter cup competitions believing that fair play was the most important part of football. Perhaps their most important role was as ambassadors for English football, touring widely around Europe and the world. Topham played his part, captaining their first ever foreign tour to South Africa in 1897.

Topham played for England twice; in 1892 as a Wolves player and later in 1894. Topham's brother Arthur was also a footballer and played for England twice although he never dallied with the professional game.

Robert Topham was a master at Brighton College from 1892 to 1905 after which he became a Kent hop grower and died in Birchington in 1951.

Years	Team
-1886	Oswestry FC
1886-1889	Welsh Cup Runners Up 1884-85
1886-1889	Keble College, Oxford University
1891-1896	Wolverhampton Wanderers
	FA Cup Winners 1892-93
Early 1890s	London Casuals
	FA Amateur Cup Runners Up 1893-94
Early 1890s	Chiswick Park
1894-1898	Corinthians
1892-1894	England (2)

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

Yates, Hazel "Playing for Oswestry School, Wolves and England": From The Archives The Oswestrian Vol CXVI 2004-05
 Young, Percy M (1976) "Centenary Wolves 1877-1977" Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (1923) Ltd
<http://www.EnglandFootballOnline.com/TeamPlyrsBios/PlayersT/BioTophamR.html> Retrieved 1 October 2020

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Mark 'Fossy' Fosbrook

b 13th December 1975

Wheelchair Basketball



Fossy was born with Lobster Claw Syndrome in Portsmouth in 1975. With two fingers on each hand and with no feet or ankles, Fossy's disability is severe, but he can wear two artificial legs and walk around quite happily. However there are times when it is easier to use his wheelchair.

Fossy went through mainstream education and threw himself into sports, playing on the school hockey and athletics teams, but volleyball captured his imagination. Studying leisure management at college and university, he captained the University of Gloucestershire Men's Volleyball Team (Able Bodied) between 1994 and 1998.

Between 1995 and 2000, Fossy was part of the GB Men's Standing Volleyball Team and represented GB in the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics.

However, it was Wheelchair Rugby where Fossy found his niche, playing for the Midland Bandits Wheelchair Rugby Team from 2003 to 2004 and the North Wales Dragons Wheelchair Rugby Team from 2006 to 2009. A member of the GB Wheelchair Rugby Team from 2003 to 2008, ongoing issues with the classification of his disability saw him miss both the Athens and Beijing Paralympics where, sidelined after months of training, he managed the GB Team in Beijing.

Since 2005, Whittington resident Fossy has been a member of the RGK TCAT Rhinos Wheelchair Basketball Team in the RGK Super League, the top national league, and has achieved Super League and Cup, and European success over recent seasons with them.

Part of the GB squad for the build up to the London Paralympics, Fossy had dedicated himself to gaining selection in the memory of his still-born daughter Lily, losing almost 20kg with a punishing training schedule of dawn and evening sessions fitted in around his full-time work as a Disability Sport and Physical Activity Officer. The disappointment of missing out on the final team selection was, however, instantly eclipsed by the birth of his son Archie in May 2012. Fossy is looking to the future now, to B internationals, European and World Championships and then even the next Paralympics!

"I have competed in various sports at a variety of levels." he says, "I have always used sport as a stage to show people what I can do."

Competitive Record (Extract):

1987-1989 Portsmouth Ten Pin Bowling Club
1990-1992 Mayfield School Hockey Team (Able Bodied)
1991-1992 Portsmouth Hockey Team Colts / Men's 4th Team (Able Bodied)
1991-1993 Havant Athletic Club Shot / Discus (Able Bodied)
1988-1992 Hampshire Hedgehogs Wheelchair Basketball
1994-1998 Uni of Glos Men's Volleyball Team captain (Able Bodied)
1995-2000 Great Britain Men's Standing Volleyball Team
1996 Represented GB in Atlanta Paralympics in Standing Volleyball
2001-2002 South West Disabled Swimming Squad
2002-2004 Bristol Pirates Wheelchair Basketball Team
2003-2004 Midland Bandits Wheelchair Rugby Team
2003-2008 Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Team
2008 Wheelchair Rugby League Champions
2008 Team Manager for Wheelchair Rugby in Beijing Paralympics
2007-2008 British Indoor Rowing Champion (Trunk & Arms Only)
2006-2009 North Wales Dragons Wheelchair Rugby Team
2005-Current RGK TCAT Rhinos Wheelchair Basketball Team
2008 Wheelchair Basketball National League and Cup Champions
2009 European Wheelchair Basketball Finalists 2009
2010 European Wheelchair Basketball Challenge Cup 2nd
2010-2011 Wheelchair Basketball Super League Champions
2011 Wheelchair Basketball Super League Cup Champions

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

<http://www.sportingchampions.org.uk/champions-3/west-midlands-region/mark-fosbrook> Retrieved 16 June 2012

<http://www.fossy.co.uk/>

<http://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/sport/103287/athlete-profile-mark-fosbrook-wheelchair-basketball-.aspx> Retrieved 21 June 2012

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Ruth Martin-Jones

b 28th January 1947

Long Jumper and Pentathlete



History of Welsh Athletics

Ruth Martin-Jones was born in Criccieth in January 1947 and moved to Shropshire in 1953. Educated at Oswestry Girls High School where her mother was a teacher, she took up the High Jump and came 2nd in the English Schools' High Jump in 1960 and 1961. Joining Shrewsbury LAC, she concentrated on sprinting from 1963-66.

Ruth studied French and German at Birmingham University from 1965 and was a member of the university athletics team, joining Birchfield Harriers in 1968. In 1967, Ruth won in the British Universities (BU) Championships for the first time, in both the 100m Hurdles and the Long Jump. Competing annually in the BU games until 1970, Ruth won 14 BU titles; twice winning the combined Pentathlon event in 1969 and 1970.

At the age of 23, Ruth represented Wales at the 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in both the Long Jump and the Pentathlon. Ruth placed 9th in the Long Jump, with a Welsh record distance, and 6th in the Pentathlon, also in a new personal best (PB), the 1st of her

5 Welsh records, behind Mary Peters who won with a new Commonwealth and UK record score.

At an Indoor Athletics competition in 1971, GB took on the strong East German team with Ruth providing the biggest surprise by any member of the British team by jumping over 5" further in the Long Jump than she had ever done indoors. That year Ruth broke her leg whilst High Jumping but returned to competition by May 1972, coming 2nd to Mary Peters at Crystal Palace, with an Olympic qualifying standard, beating her PBs in all events but the Shot.

Now concentrating on the Long Jump, Ruth was selected for GB for the 1972 Munich Olympics but did not progress out of the qualifying rounds.

The East German women carried all before them in retaining the European Cup in 1973. Ruth placed 3rd for the GB team in the Long Jump with 6.30m.

In 1974, Ruth became the first Welsh woman to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games when she took the Bronze in the Long Jump in the Christchurch Games with a leap of 6.38m. She continued to compete for Birchfield and was selected for GB against Russia at Crystal Palace in 1975. Ruth married Ray Howell later that year.

Ruth Howell returned to the Pentathlon in 1976, setting more Welsh records in the new version, placing 6th in the Pentathlon and 7th in the Long Jump at the Edmonton Commonwealth Games in 1978. The following month she set a new UK record for the Heptathlon event at a meeting in Birmingham, which was also her career personal best Pentathlon score.

Ruth married Alan Swinhoe in 1989 and may have been spotted in a 10k race in Hertfordshire as a Super Veteran in 2009/10!

Achievements:
Personal Best:
Long Jump:
Indoors 6.51m 1974
Outdoors 6.49m 1974
6.54m wind assisted 1974
Pentathlon:
Personal Best: 4,898 pts 1978
Major Championships:
Commonwealth Games, Edinburgh, 1970
Long Jump 9th place
Pentathlon 6th place
Olympic Games, Munich, 1972
Long Jump 28th place
Commonwealth Games, Christchurch, 1974
Long Jump Bronze Medal
Commonwealth Games, Edmonton, 1978
Long Jump 7th place
Pentathlon 6th place

Inducted 2012 - Sources:

Border and Counties Advertiser 25 July 1970 p18
Collins, Currie, Walters and Williams (2002) "The History of Welsh Athletics" Dragon Sports Books Ltd
NUTS Publications Booklets Stuart Mazdon "Multi-Events" Ian Tempest "Long Jump"

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

David Neil Page

b 31st December 1949

Archery



David Page has been a successful archer with all types of bows after shooting his first arrow when his interest in archery began in 1978. His greatest competitive triumph was winning the British Archery Clout Championship in 1979 which entailed accurately shooting 120 arrows at a flag (known as "the Clout") in the ground at 180 yards distance. Points are scored depending on how close each arrow lands to the flag; most of the arrows land within 12" of the flag, no mean feat from that distance.

On moving to Treflach 30 years ago, David transferred to the local club, Croesoswallt Archers, where he began coaching, became its Chairman and is now the Club's Records Officer. He has been ably supported by his wife Jean, the Club Secretary, an ex-archer and a qualified tournament judge. Croesoswallt Archers was formed in 1957 at the Orthopaedic Hospital when archery was introduced for the purposes of patient rehabilitation. The Club still practises within the hospital grounds.

David has the distinction of representing the region of North Wales when shooting the Recurve Bow and is President of the North Wales Archery Society.

It is, however, as an organiser of national tournaments and as a British and European International Judge that he is best known having been at the top of his sport as an international official for 25 years. As a tournament organiser, David has been responsible for running major British and World Record Status competitions in Wales. In addition, he ran the British Junior Championships in 1989 and 1991 and the Euronations' Tournament in 1993 which was won by the Welsh team. Part of the organising committee for the World Junior Championships in 2004, David has been the Director of Shooting at Island Games World events (second only to the Olympics) and the World Cup in 2007.

David's judging career reached another peak when he had the honour to be selected to be judge and the Director of Shooting for the London Paralympics 2012 - a proud achievement. Of his selection for this role David said "It's a great honour and the pinnacle of my archery career." He has a particular interest in the paraplegic performers and regularly officiates at the tournaments held at Stoke Mandeville hospital and the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall.

In addition to his international and national commitments he regularly helps out at club training nights. He advises the club officials, maintains the records, attends committee meetings, contributes to the club newsletter and advises the novices.

Croesoswallt's quiet and unassuming toxophilite has achieved national and international status in his sport, a fact unbeknown to most people.

Achievements Include:

British Archery Clout Champion 1979

Judge/Organiser:

British Junior Championships 1989, 1991

Euronations Tournament 1993

World Junior Championships 2004

World Cup 2007

IPC Paralympic Games 2012 London

Inducted 2013 - Sources:

Account and image by Larry Collins, Croesoswallt Archers, April 2012

<http://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/sport/114648/oswestry-archer-to-be-games-judge.aspx> Retrieved 28 May 2013

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clout_archery Retrieved 28 May 2013

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Malcolm Tarkenter

b 22nd February 1957

Wheelchair Basketball



A freak accident in 1974 at the age of 17 brought to an end Malcolm's previous life as an apprentice plumber. Within a year Malcolm had joined Oldham Owls becoming one of the earliest members of this fledging disability sports club and competing in his first Nationals at basketball.

Malcolm then joined the Sheffield side Lodge Moor based at the unit where he had undertaken treatment and rehabilitation after his accident. He was to spend 12 years with them, gaining his first international honour in 1979 when he was a member of the Great Britain (GB) U23 team that took part in a tournament in Auch in France. In 1980 Malcolm was selected to represent GB at the Paralympics in Arnhem .

Within 2 years of his move to Oswestry in 1985, Malcolm had become a founder member of the Oswestry club, helping them gain 4th place in their first Nationals.

In 1989 Malcolm returned to the Owls for a second successful spell being a member of their Championship winning teams in 1989, 1990 and 1997 and achieving the League and Cup double in 1996 and 1998.

Malcolm was recalled to the GB team that won silver in the 1994 World Championships in Edmonton. In 1995 he

helped his country to win Gold in the European Nations Championships in Paris and in 1997 he was also a member of the team that narrowly failed to retain that trophy in Madrid. His greatest achievement came when he helped GB to win Silver at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta.

After playing wheelchair basketball for over 30 years and with more than 200 GB caps, in 1998 Malcolm decided to call time on his international career and gain his coaching badges. In 1999 he became assistant coach to the GB Women's team that won Bronze in the European Wheelchair Championships at Roermond in Holland and competed at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney.

Malcolm now serves British Wheelchair Basketball as Chairman of the organisation in a completely voluntary capacity. Still an active member of his Oldham Owls club where he is Vice Chairman, he travels there from Oswestry at least twice a week to support the activity in the club which stretches far beyond wheelchair basketball to other sports and physical activity.

Malcolm supports people in the Spinal Injuries Unit, Oswestry in their rehabilitation through offering sporting opportunities together with advice and support as someone who benefited from the same support many years ago.

In Summer 2012, the British Paralympic Association (BPA) recognised Malcolm's contribution to his sport when he was one of 20 athletes nominated to carry the Paralympic torch on its overnight journey from Stoke Mandeville to London.

Sporting Achievements:

U23 GB Wheelchair Basketball Team 1979 Auch France
IPC Paralympic Games 1980 Arnhem Holland
GB Sledge Hockey and Speed Skating for the Disabled 1980-1985
1989, 1990 and 1997 League Winners Oldham Owls
1996 and 1998 League and Cup Winners Oldham Owls
IWBF Wheelchair Basketball World Championships Silver 1994 Edmonton
IWBF Wheelchair Basketball European Championships Gold 1995 Paris
IWBF Wheelchair Basketball European Championships Silver 1997 Madrid
IPC Paralympic Games 1996 Silver Atlanta

Inducted 2013 - Sources:

<http://www.danceresponse.com/about-us.php> Retrieved 27 May 2013

Email from British Wheelchair Basketball 18 March 2013

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/news/pressreleases/?EntryId138=169558> Retrieved 27 May 2013

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME



Glyn Oliver 'Boaz' Myhill

b 9th November 1982

Association Football - Goalkeeper



Image: Football Association of Wales

The son of an American father and Welsh mother, Glyn Oliver 'Boaz' Myhill was born in Modesto, California moving to England when just one. Growing up in Weston Rhyn, Myhill attended The Marches School where he showed great interest in all sports. A talented Shropshire junior cricketer, and member of Oswestry Cricket Club, Myhill also joined Oswestry Boys Club football team where he found his passion for the game, invariably playing in midfield.

Aged 12, Myhill was signed by Aston Villa where he began to develop his goalkeeping skills alongside such stars as David James and Peter Schmeichel at Villa Park. Agreeing a professional contract in 2000, a number of loan spells saw him learning his trade at Stoke City and Bristol City, earning call ups to the England youth and U20 sides along the way. Further loan spells at Bradford City and Macclesfield Town followed where he also impressed. However, at the end of the Town deal, Myhill was once again sent out on loan this time to struggling Stockport County who wanted him on a permanent basis. Now 21 and unable to break

into the Villa first team, Myhill made the decision to sign instead for Hull City for £50,000 in December 2003.

For the next six and a half seasons, Myhill was Hull's first choice goalkeeper earning back to back promotions with Hull from the old Division Three to the Football League Championship and was voted Hull City's Player of the Year in season 2005-06. By winning promotion with Hull to the Premier League for the first time in May 2008, Myhill was one of only four Hull City players to have taken their club up through all four divisions.

In July 2010, Myhill left Hull for West Bromwich Albion on a 3-year contract for an officially undisclosed fee of £1.5 million. For the 2011-12 season, Myhill was loaned to Championship club Birmingham City, exchanging places with Birmingham and England goalkeeper Ben Foster. Myhill was first choice goalkeeper for Birmingham's league matches for most of the season, making his European debut in the Europa League play-off round first leg against Portuguese club Nacional and receiving the Football League Precision Goalkeeping Golden Glove for October 2011.

Capped by England at U20 level, his eligibility to play for the US or any of the home nations was unaffected. Declining the chance to play for Wales in 2006, Myhill made his Welsh debut in March 2008. Playing mostly as deputy to first-choice Wayne Hennessey, Myhill appeared 19 times for Wales, retiring from international football in May 2014.

Returning from the Birmingham loan, Myhill's first team chances have been limited by West Bromwich Albion's permanent signing of Foster in June 2012. However, following Foster's injury-enforced six month layoff in March 2015, Myhill has stepped up as West Bromwich Albion's first choice keeper to try to ensure their Premier League safety.

Years	Team
1994-2000	Aston Villa (Youth Career)
2000-2003	Aston Villa
2002	Stoke City (<i>loan</i>)
2002	Bristol City (<i>loan</i>)
2002-2003	Bradford City (<i>loan</i>)
2003	Macclesfield Town (<i>loan</i>)
2003	Stockport County (<i>loan</i>)
2003-2010	Hull City
2010-	West Bromwich Albion
2011-2012	Birmingham City (<i>loan</i>)
2002	England U20
2008-2013	Wales

Inducted 2015 - Sources:

<http://www.expressandstar.com/sport/2010/07/30/albion-poised-to-snap-up-boaz-myhill/> Retrieved 26 April 2015

<http://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/144231/boaz-is-happy-to-fight-for-his-place-at-hawthorns.aspx> Retrieved 25 March 2015

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boaz_Myhill Retrieved 8 April 2015

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Amy Hughes

b 1st February 1988

Endurance Runner



Born in Shrewsbury in February 1988, Amy attended West Felton Primary School and The Corbet School in Baschurch before moving on to Wrexham College.

"The one that always forgot their PE kit!", Amy was not at all sporty at school in fact she hated it so, wanting to get fit, Amy had to start from scratch and began running at 6am each morning so that she would not be seen. Now a regular habit, Amy realised that she loved running and entered her first marathon 6 months later.

In 2008 Amy began training for a Level 3 qualification in Personal Training & Sports Therapy going on in 2012 to study for a degree in Physiotherapy at Manchester Metropolitan University. Now seriously interested in fitness and healthy living, Amy started her own personal training business, noting that many young people, particularly women, knew little of healthy eating and had no interest in fitness. She decided that she would try to change this by inspiring them to become more active.

Motivated to challenge herself after reading about Dean Karzanes' 2006 achievement of running a marathon in each of the 50 US States on 50 consecutive days, Amy

set herself the mammoth challenge of running 53 marathons on 53 consecutive days in 53 different towns and cities around the UK (known as 53:53) with the aim of inspiring others. Starting in Chester, finishing in Manchester, and with Oswestry on Day 50, through 53:53 Amy also raised over £53,000 for, and awareness of, her chosen charity the Isabelle Lottie Foundation for children and young adults with brain tumours.

The Guinness Book of Records has not credited Amy's achievement as an Official World Record as they require each marathon to be run on a course set by an official governing body. Although GPS records and supporting photos and accounts from people who ran with her confirm her claim Amy is just happy to have accomplished her challenge. "All along the route, I'd hear people say, 'if Amy can run 53 marathons, maybe I can get fit too', which was exactly what I was hoping to achieve." she says.

Previously working with people with disabilities and seeing the lack of support for them to stay or become active, after the 53:53 challenge, with its ethos fresh in their minds, Amy, with partner Dave Keighley, set up the 53 Foundation to help people with disabilities gain the opportunity for a healthier life either directly or through other charity organisations.

In April 2015, looking for a fresh challenge Amy, who had been training Blue Peter presenters Barney Harwood and Lindsey Russell for the London marathon, ran the 250 miles from Oswestry to London in one week covering her first 'ultra' marathon distances.

Amy now lives in Cheshire where she has her own private personal training business in conjunction with mentoring, public speaking, organising events and taking on 'crazy' challenges.

Honours Include:

Multiple marathons incl London and LA

2014:

Ran 53 marathons in 53 days in UK
27th Daily Telegraph's Top 100 Britons
Runner's World Top 5 Running Heroes
Running Awards 'Running Moment of the Year'

Appointed Dame Kelly Holmes Trust Athlete

Inducted 2016 - Sources:

Account by Dave Keighley February 2016

<http://amyhughes53.co.uk/index.php/about-amy/> Retrieved 2nd May 2016

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME



Stuart Manford

b 9th December 1983

50m and 100m Breaststroke Swimmer



Oswestry born Stuart Manford started to learn to swim in Oswestry Leisure Centre's Kingfishers group from the age of 4, moving on to Oswestry Otters Swimming Club aged 6 whilst a Gobowen Primary School pupil. Although Stuart was interested in and took part in many sports including athletics and football, and played for Llanymynech Boys Football team, swimming was always his main focus. He enjoyed early success whilst at Otters winning various events at the Shropshire County Championships. Coming 3rd at the Welsh National Championships in Cardiff with a British National qualifying time allowed him to compete at the British National Championships.

However, a poor performance at those Championships revealed that Stuart now needed a bigger club with more support, a higher level of training and more competition within the club to help him progress. The Chester Club had a larger squad with many National level swimmers across all age groups and, at the time, Cheshire were the 5th ranked swimming county in the country against

Shropshire's 20th ranking, with a number of Olympic Swimmers competing for various teams. Joining Chester when he was 14, and a pupil at Rhyn Park School, allowed Stuart to race at a much higher level and he competed in the Cheshire County Championships until the age of 18.

Throughout his early career, Stuart's parents were a huge support to him. Committed to helping him achieve his goals, they rose at 4:45 to make sure he was at poolside by 5:45 several days a week, plus 5 evening sessions per week in Chester in addition to competitions around the country.

Stuart went on to medal at the English Schools Championships in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and then the Welsh School Championships in 2001, going on to break the National Schools Record for the 100m Breaststroke in 2002. Representing Wales in the British Schools International Championships in both 2001 and 2002, Stuart came 2nd in the 100m Breaststroke in 2002.

The big breakthrough in Stuart's swimming career came in 2001 when he became the British National Age Group Champion 17/18 years for the 50m Breaststroke.

In 2002 he joined the strongest Senior swimming team in the UK at Loughborough University where, studying until 2006, he qualified for the 2002 100m Breaststroke British Nationals and the 2003, 2004 and 2005 50m Breaststroke Senior Men's British Nationals.

The peak of Stuart's swimming career came when he represented Wales in the semi-final of the Men's 50m Breaststroke at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games finishing 11th in a time of 29.39. Looking back, although he swam slower than his personal best time, which would have made the final, Stuart is extremely proud of achieving his goal of swimming at the Commonwealth Games. Returning from Australia, Stuart no longer felt he had the hunger or the drive to carry on competitive swimming and retired that year.

Nowadays Stuart spends a lot of time cycling, running and open water swimming and has completed a number of events including the London Marathon and half Iron Man UK. Stuart is now a Divisional Director for national Financial Recruitment Consultants Axon Moore and lives in Droitwich with his young family.

Records Set:

Welsh National Record Holder - 50m Breaststroke

Long course
29.11 set in 2005

Short course
28.56 set in 2003

Commonwealth Games:

Melbourne 2006
50m Breaststroke
Semi-Finalist

Inducted 2016 - Sources:

Account by Stuart Manford April 2016
Photo by Shropshire Star 2017

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Michael (Mikey) Hall

b 20th July 1975

Paralympic Compound Archer



Invictus Games 2014

Image : Northern Echo

Growing up in St Martins, Mikey Hall attended Ifton Heath Primary and Rhyn Park Secondary schools where he enjoyed swimming and being a member of the Scouts and Oswestry's Army Cadets. When he was 18 Mikey continued the family tradition of being part of a close-knit Army team when he joined the 1st the Queens Dragoon Guards.

Having served around the world in places including Northern Ireland, Germany, Kosovo and Bosnia, in a tragic accident in 2000, Mikey fell off a rope bridge on a regimental competition assault course breaking his neck and back in numerous places leaving him paralysed below the chest.

With support from family and friends, and in particular the British charity Help for Heroes, Mikey started on his long road to recovery at their Phoenix House Recovery Centre in Catterick, North Yorkshire joining their Sports Recovery Programme with its many physical and psychological benefits.

Although Mikey was introduced to archery by a friend in 2007, he didn't take it seriously and became involved with other sports. As one of 16 veterans who cycled 445 miles from Edinburgh to London in May 2013, Mikey used a hand powered bike as part of Help for Heroes' Hero Ride. He also learnt how to swim using just his upper body and competed in several triathlons and half iron-man competitions including the 2014 Iron Man UK event with Help for Heroes 'Team True Spirit'.

An archery and pistol shooting skills test event at Phoenix House revealed Mikey's talent as a potential Paralympian archer and he was invited to spend 10 days at the Sochi Paralympics in 2014 as part of the British Paralympic Association's Paralympic Inspiration Programme to help drive a new generation of athletes to aim for Paralympic success.

Using a compound bow, being shorter and ideal for target shooting from a wheelchair, Mikey won the individual compound bronze and the team compound title with the UK team at the inaugural Invictus Games in London in 2014. Mikey and all Invictus Games athletes were awarded the BBC Helen Rollason Award that year for 'outstanding achievement in the face of adversity'.

International selection followed in 2015 when Mikey was chosen to represent GB at the Para World Ranking Tournament in Almere, Holland winning a team bronze and an individual gold. By then ranked fourth in the world, he also won a team bronze at the Para Archery World Ranking Tournament in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic that year. Mikey also received the Sports Army Award 2015 for his sporting achievements after injury.

Returning home to Shropshire to train at Lilleshall and RAF Shawbury, Mikey made his Paralympic Games debut at Rio de Janeiro in 2016 placing 7th in the Individual Compound Men's Open. "This was only my first games and the competition was really fierce but it has only motivated me to do better in future. I am looking forward to the 2020 games in Tokyo." says Mikey.

Sporting Achievements:

2014 Iron Man UK Bolton participant with Help for Heroes' 'Team True Spirit'
2014 Invictus Games London - Individual Bronze (UK)
2014 Invictus Games London - Team Gold (UK)
2015 Para World Ranking Tournament Almere, Holland - Individual Gold (GB)
2015 Para World Ranking Tournament Almere, Holland - Team Bronze (GB)
2015 Sports Army Award
2016 Paralympic Games Rio de Janeiro - Individual 7th Place (GB)

Inducted 2017 - Sources:

<http://www.archerygb.org/> Retrieved 29th April 2017

Conversation with Mrs Inge Hall April 2017

<http://rio.paralympics.org.uk/meet-the-team/athlete-profile/mikey-hall> Retrieved 29th April 2017

Border Counties Advertiser 27/09/2016 Page 72

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Carl Edwards

b 14th September 1963

Equestrian Show Jumper

One of the leading British show jumpers, Carl Edwards reached his career pinnacle at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 after double clear rounds in Aachen, Lisbon and Gijon had helped seal his selection for the Team GB Equestrian Olympic team. Riding his home-bred mare Bit More Candy, alongside brothers Michael and John Whitaker and Geoff Billington, Carl and the team achieved 8th place with all members of both the GB Olympic and Paralympic teams receiving the BBC Sports Personality Team of the Year Award that year.

Carl was born in Brynore, Criffins to a family with a very strong equestrian background; his mother Susan competed at Badminton in the 1940s, his father Charlie bred racehorses whilst his uncle Roy Edwards rode Peacetown to 3rd place in the 1964 Grand National.

Unsurprisingly, Carl was introduced to horses at a very early age starting riding at home at the age of 4 in local gymkhanas before moving on to more serious events. At 6 years old, he won the Hickstead 12.2



Carl Edwards on Bit More Candy

hands championship and the 13.2 championship the following year. In 1978, aged only 15, Carl competed at the home European Championships in Lincolnshire for Team GB winning silver before going on to take the U21 National Championships in the same year. Success continued with a gold medal win at the 1983 Young Rider European Championships held in Holland.

Carl's successful show jumping career was painfully interrupted in 1993 when he almost lost his right foot in a farm machine accident requiring 14 pins, two hooks and a length of wiring to keep his foot and ankle together. Thanks to the care of the Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen, Carl re-

covered and went on to win the Senior National Championships.

Married to Amanda, daughter of Carmen Lanni, himself a successful producer of horses, Carl has two sons - Carmen aged 20 and Will aged 18 - who are continuing the family tradition and making their significant mark in this sport.

Carl competed at national and international level for almost 30 years before retiring in 2005 to concentrate on breeding horses, his equestrian business and Team Edwards.

Results Achieved:

- 3 - Horse Of The Year Show, 6 Year Old Championship - 14/10/2005 Cotton Candy II
- 9 - Horse Of The Year Show, 6 Year Old Championship - 14/10/2005 Fine Filly
- 8 - Scope, 6 Year Old Championship - 4/9/2005 Cotton Candy II
- 4 - Gijon, Nations Cup - 16/8/2001 Bit More Candy
- 5 - Lummen, Nations Cup - 22/7/2001 Bit More Candy
- 7 - Royal Cornwall Show, Daewoo Grand Prix - 12/6/2001 Candy Lupe
- 7 - Rome, Nations Cup - 29/5/2001 Bit More Candy
- 3 - Cavan, Ireland, 1.30m - 9/11/2000 Candy Lupe
- 6 - Gijon, Nations Cup - 16/8/2000 Bit More Candy
- 8 - Olympics, Team - 27/7/2000 Bit More Candy
- 1 - Aachen, Nations Cup - 16/7/2000 Bit More Candy
- 3 - Lisbon, Nations Cup - 8/6/2000 Bit More Candy
- 1 - Horse Of The Year Show, Grandstand Media Cup - 8/10/1999 Conquest II
- 1 - Horse Of The Year Show, Daewoo Championship - 6/10/1999 Bit More Candy
- 7 - Lisbon, Nations Cup - 22/7/1998 Bit More Candy
- 7 - Athens, Nations Cup - 23/6/1998 Bit More Candy
- 1 - Horse Of The Year Show, Daewoo Championship - 6/10/1997 Moneymore
- 7 - Athens, Nations Cup - 3/7/1997 Bit More Candy
- 1 - Horse Of The Year Show, Grade B Championship - 7/10/1995 C Queen Bee
- 1 - Horse Of The Year Show, Grade C Championship - 8/10/1993 Moneymore
- 1 - Horse Of The Year Show, Grade A Championship - 7/10/1989 U2

INDUCTED 2018 - Sources:

Account of Interviews with Carl Edwards by Clive Knight April 2018

<http://www.highoffleystud.co.uk/stableexpress/Rider-Profile.asp?rider=Carl%20Edwards> Retrieved 9th May 2018

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Oliver Townend

b 15th November 1982

Equestrian Three Day Eventer



Image: Hannah Cole - Hannah Cole Photography

Oliver Townend & Tregilder - Barbury Castle Horse Trials - July 2017

Huddersfield-born Oliver Townend began riding when he was 7 years old earning early success aged 11 at the Horse of the Year Show on his pony Cool Mule. Selected for the GB Pony Eventing team at 13 he competed in the European Championships and moved up the ranks.

For 3 years he was stable jockey to the trainer Kenneth Clawson in Leicestershire before setting up his own yard in the county, aged 21, riding and selling horses. By the age of 25 he was able to buy his own base Gadlas Farm at Dudleston Heath in Shropshire which he runs with his parents today.

In 2005 Oliver debuted at Badminton on Topping finishing in 12th place, qualifying for an individual place at the European Championships at Blenheim that year. In 2006 on Flint Curtis, Oliver placed 3rd at Badminton, retaining his place on the British Squad as an individual at the Aachen World Equestrian Games that year before gaining a European Championship Team Gold medal at Pratoni in 2007.

2009 saw Oliver win his first two CCI 4* events, firstly Badminton on Flint Curtis before winning Burghley on his other top grey horse Carousel Quest.

Given the ride on the 4* horse Armada in 2012, the pair were crowned British National Champions the following year. In 2014 Oliver, on Armada, placed 2nd whilst achieving 4th at his first CCI 4* event at Luhmühlen on Black Tie II qualifying the pair for a place on the British Squad for the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy.

With new horse Fenyas Elegance, Oliver won a place at the European Championships at Blair Castle in 2015 and claimed both the British Novice and Intermediate Championship titles in the same year. In 2016 Oliver was top of the BE Rider Rankings for the third year running and was again crowned British National Champion on Cillnabradan Evo before taking the inaugural Event Rider Masters title thanks to a further win at Blair Castle and runner up spot at Blenheim.

In 2017, Oliver started off a fine season by taking his 10th Burnham Market CIC 3* win since 2007 on Cooley Master Class. Lanfranco gave Oliver the CIC 3* at Ballindenisk while he won the British Intermediate Championship trophy with Khoi Traveler. Oliver won another gold medal with the British team at the European Championships in Strzegom on Cooley SRS. In September Oliver won his elusive third CCI 4* win at Burghley on Ballaghmor Class, a 4* winner, and retained his place at the top of the British Eventing rider rankings for a fourth year.

Oliver won the 2018 CCI 4* event at Kentucky on Cooley Master Class leaving him one short of the Grand Slam dream of consecutive Burghley, Kentucky and Badminton titles which ended when placing only 2nd at Badminton on Cooley SRS after very competitive cross-country rounds.

Major Honours Only Listed:

CCI4* Events - 2009 Burghley 1st Carousel Quest Badminton 1st Flint Curtis - 2017 Burghley 1st Ballaghmor Class
- 2018 Kentucky 1st Cooley Master Class - 2018 Badminton 2nd Cooley SRS

European Eventing Championships Team Gold Medal - 2007 Pratoni del Vivaro Flint Curtis - 2017 Strzegom Cooley SRS

INDUCTED 2018 - Sources:

<https://www.olivertownend.com/> Retrieved 8th May 2018

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Charles Frederick Henry Leslie

8th December 1861 - 12th February 1921

Cricketer - Right Hand Batsman and Right Arm Fast Bowler



The English Cricket Team that toured Australia in 1882-83.
RHS standing: Charles Frederick Henry (CFH) Leslie.

Born in Westminster, London in 1861, Charles Frederick Henry Leslie was the third son of English composer and conductor Henry David Leslie.

Leslie grew up at Bryn Tanat Hall near Llansantffraid with three brothers and a sister. Educated at Rugby School, he was a member of the cricket XI from 1877-80 and Captain of Cricket from 1878-80; he was an outstanding public schoolboy sportsman.

Leslie went up to Oriel College Oxford in 1881 winning blues in rugby, racquets and cricket. From 1878-93 he also played cricket for Oswestry CC and Shropshire and had a first class career from 1881-1888 representing the MCC, Middlesex from 1881-1886 and England from 1882-83. In 48 first-class matches he scored 1,860 runs (ave 22.96), took 8 wickets at 20.62 and 18 catches.

Although 1881 marked the high point in Leslie's career, as he was never considered as good afterwards, he was still selected for the 1882-83 England team captained by Ivo Bligh who set out for Australia "to recover those Ashes" in reference to the famous RIP obituary notice published by the Sporting Times after England's defeat by Australia at The Oval during the previous season.

Just 3 tests were originally arranged for the tour with the final 4th played as an ad-hoc arrangement after the original series was won 2-1 by England. Only twice on the tour did Leslie do himself justice scoring 144 against New South Wales and 54 in the 2nd of the 3 tests.

During the tour Lady Clarke presented Bligh with a small urn, possibly containing the ashes of a burnt bail, which was brought back to England and is now the most famous exhibit in the MCC museum at Lord's. England and Australia have contested these mythical Ashes ever since.

Leslie was also Hon Secretary of The Butterflies Cricket Club, a club founded in 1862 for Rugbians, but later extended to other selected public schools, for 37 years from 1882-1919.

At his best Leslie was a batsman of very high class, combining strong defence with powerful hitting, he was a useful right-arm fast bowler and an athletic cover-point.

He died in 1921 at the age of 59 in Mayfair, London and is the great grandfather of Matthew Fleming, former president of the MCC, who played one-day cricket for England 1997-98.

First Class Teams:

Middlesex (1881-86), Marylebone Cricket Club, England (1882-83)

Batting and fielding Averages														
	Mat	Inns	No	Runs	Hs	Avg	BF	S/R	100	50	4's	6's	Ct	St
First-class	48	86	5	1860	144	22.96	4	10	-	-	18	0	-	-
Tests	4	7	0	106	54	15.14	0	1	6	0	1	0	-	-
Bowling Averages														
	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg	Econ	S/R	4w	5w	10w	
First-class	48	-	332	165	8	3/31	-	20.62	2.98	41.5	-	0	0	
Tests	4	3	96	44	4	3/31	3/31	11.00	2.75	24.0	0	0	0	

INDUCTED 2019 - Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Leslie_\(cricketer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Leslie_(cricketer)) Retrieved 26th April 2019

<http://www.cricketarhive.com/Archive/Articles/0/927.html> Brief Profile of CFH Leslie by Don Ambrose Retrieved 25th April 2019

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/wisdenalmanack/content/story/232837.html> Retrieved 2nd May 2019

Tony Percival (1999) "Shropshire Cricketers 1844-1998" ACS Publications

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Luke Preston

b 26th May 1976

Judo



Luke Preston (l) with European Bronze Medal Winner Ashley McKenzie at the European Judo Championships 2018 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The oldest of three brothers, Luke grew up in Criftins, Shropshire attending Criftins CE Primary School and the Lakelands School in Ellesmere.

At the age of 6, taken along by a friend who wanted to try the sport, Luke joined Wrexham Judo Club under coach John Walsh. New to judo Luke found he really enjoyed it and carried on when his friend soon left. It was only later in 1982 when Luke won the club award for Best New Member that he realised that he had a talent for judo. Luke's parents have always been his biggest support in the sport.

After successfully completing his BSc in Social Psychology at Loughborough University in 1997 Luke began full time training at Camberley Judo Club. He went on to represent both Wales and Great Britain many times, with an impressive competition record, winning the Senior British Championships at U81kg three times, eleven international 'Open' medals, including the Canadian Open twice, and Silver and Bronze medals at the British Open. Luke is also a World

Cup medallist, won Bronze at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, won Silver in the European Team Championships in 2000 and placed 7th at the European Championships in Paris in 2001. He was the GB Olympic reserve at U81kg for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Retiring from international competition in 2005 Luke became a qualified coach working as a full time coach for Camberley Judo Club and completed a Foundation Degree in Sports Performance at Bath University through the block route in 2009.

Since 2006 Luke has also been a support coach for the Great Britain Judo team coaching at the Junior European/World Championships, the U23 European Championships and the Senior European/World Championships. In 2011 Luke was selected to join the UK Sports Elite Coach Apprentice Programme to help coaches who could influence the Great Britain team's effort at the 2012 London Olympics.

Luke was then honoured to be chosen to be a Great Britain Olympic Coach for the 2012 Games when he coached Karina Bryant, the most successful British judoka in recent years, matside to her Bronze medal. In 2014 Luke was asked to coach Team England at the 2014 Commonwealth Games allowing him to be a personal coach matside to Ashley McKenzie, Danny Williams and Owen Livesey, who were all Gold medal winners.

Luke is now a qualified British Judo Association Level 3 coach, a European Judo Union Level 4 high performance coach and Head Coach at Camberley Judo Club where he runs the day-to-day training programmes for their Elite group, travels with them around the world to training camps and preparation tournaments, and manages the Camberley team.

Competition Record

2004	Commonwealth Tournament - Silver
2003	USA Open - Bronze Canadian Open - Bronze British Championships - Bronze
2002	Commonwealth Games - Bronze Canadian Open - Gold British Championships - Bronze
2001	European Championships - 7th Poland World Cup - Bronze British Open - Bronze USA Open - Silver Canadian Open - Bronze British Championship - Bronze
2000	European Team Championships - Silver Commonwealth Tournament - Silver British Open - Silver USA Open - Silver Canadian Opens - Silver British Championships - Gold
1999	Canadian Open - Bronze British Championships - Gold
1998	Canadian Open - Gold Commonwealth Tournament - Bronze
1997	British Championships - Gold

INDUCTED 2019 - Sources:

Email from Luke Preston 14th May 2019

<http://www.camberleyjudo.co.uk/about-the-club/coaches/> Retrieved 13th May 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2012/jul/25/olympics-experts-network> Retrieved 18th March 2019

https://uk.linkedin.com/in/luke-preston-90926065?trk=public_profile_browsemap_mini-profile_title Retrieved 14th May 2019

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Rob Hughes

b 9th November 1969

World Champion Angler and TV Presenter

An Oswestry childhood saw Rob attend Woodside Primary and Fitzalan Secondary Schools and Oswestry College. A keen angler from only 6, Rob caught his first ever fish at Middleton Pool just outside the town before spending many happy hours fishing the Ellesmere Canal and local rivers.

Successfully competing for England as a junior and youth angler eventually saw Rob represent England at the 1996 senior World Cup with long time friend and angling partner Simon Crow when they became World Champions.

Graduating from Nottingham University,

Rob had trained as a solicitor via Nottingham Law School and the College of Advanced Litigation when in 1998 Rob's love of the law drew him into the legal profession with Oswestry solicitors Milton Francis Hughes before moving on to further his career with a larger firm in Wolverhampton. Seeming destined for a successful future as a litigation solicitor Rob realised that angling was his main love and in 1999 Rob opted for angling and turned fully professional.

Highly competitive he won numerous regional and national events leading to more international success in 1999 when he won the European Cup. That year Rob went on to set up the British Carp Angling Championship - the angling equivalent of football's Premier League.

Already an established author and writer, respected and recognised around the world, Rob's personal achievement on the bank plus his successful management style had led Sky Sports to approach him in 1997 to be a presenter/pundit, working for Sky for 20 years before becoming the face of angling on BT Sport presenting their weekly fishing programme 'On The Bank'.



Career Achievements to Date

1993 <Various regional and local titles
1993 First Magazine feature published nationally
1996 FIPS Ed World Cup - France - Gold
First magazine feature published internationally
1997 TV Career Commenced - Sky Sports
First book published 'Strategic Carp Fishing'
1998 World Carp Classic (Open) - Section Winner/Podium
1999 European Carp Cup (Open) - Team Champion
Set up the British Carp Angling Championships
Second book published 'Discovering Carp Fishing'
2000 Awarded Chevalier du Coquelle de St Jacques - France
Honoured for services to Italian carp fishing
2015 Appointed Manager of Carp Team England
FIPS Ed World Championships Spain - Gold
Inducted to the Carp Fishing Hall of Fame
2016 FFPC European Six Nations - Gold
BT Sport - 'On The Bank' presenter
Set up England Ladies team - Anglo/Welsh win
2017 Carp Team England ranked 3rd in the world
2018 FIPS Ed World Championships Serbia - Bronze
ICFA Home Nations - Gold
ICFA European Tri Nations (f) - Gold
Appointed Chair of FUIPS Ed Carp Technical Committee
2019 FIPS Ed World Games S Africa - England Flag Bearer/Manager

Recognising his achievements, in 2015 The Angling Trust appointed Rob manager of the England team when they won their first ever World Championships team Gold medal - the first taste of the international success to follow. Rob has appeared 21 times for England as a player or manager and has been the driving force behind the growth in women's participation, coaching the England ladies to their ICFA #1 World ranking. In 4 years at the helm, Rob has become the most successful England manager to date securing 14 international medals.

Outside his sporting achievements he works as an ambassador for angling participation and conservation and is the Patron of a number of angling related charities including Second Chance and Carp After Combat and is a fundraiser for other worthy charities.

INDUCTED 2019 - Sources:

Email correspondence with Hazel Yates May 2019

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Graham Evan Williams

b 2nd April 1938

Association Football - Left Back



Graham holds aloft the FA Cup trophy in 1968

Born in Henllan, Denbighshire, Graham took an early interest in football when as an 11 year old schoolboy his slow burning career began as goalkeeper for his school team. His skill at kicking the ball with his left foot however soon earned him a place out on the left wing and at 14 Graham was playing for Rhyl's Welsh League side.

Leaving school the following year Graham spent a month on trial with Burnley staying with Jimmy Adamson and his family. Signing amateur forms for Rhyl, he earned a first team place on that Rhyl left wing where his performances drew him to the attention of West Bromwich Albion (WBA) who signed him up as an amateur even before the manager had seen him play.

Graham turned professional for WBA in 1955. His first team debut against Blackpool saw him lined up at kick off immediately opposite the famous Stanley Matthews!

A spell in the reserves followed before National Service took him into the Army at 19 as a physical training instructor at Oswestry's Royal Artillery Camp travelling to WBA matches at weekends.

It was also in Oswestry that Graham met his wife Heather whom he married in her home village of St Martin's only eleven months later.

At Old Trafford on Saturday 14 September 1963, Graham was an eyewitness to history - the professional debut of one 17 year old George Best. That afternoon, playing opposite Best on United's right flank, Graham went robustly about his work in time-honoured fashion. Best's bravery to keep coming back at Graham would later in their careers give rise to the famous quote:

"Will you stand still for a minute so I can look at your face?" asked an exhausted Williams. "Why?" asked Best. "Because all I've ever seen of you is your backside disappearing down the touchline." replied Williams.

Graham was the ultimate one-club man spending his entire 17-year, 314 game professional playing career at West Bromwich Albion, captaining the side to victories in the 1966 Football League Cup Final against West Ham United and the 1968 FA Cup Final against Everton. He also won 26 caps for Wales.

After leaving WBA in 1972 Graham became player-manager of Weymouth until 1975, later managing Cardiff City and, in 3 separate spells, the Finnish side RoPS Rovaniemi, guiding them to the quarter finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1988. Graham later served as assistant manager of the Welsh side under Bobby Gould and also held scouting roles at Cheltenham Town and Tottenham Hotspur.

Graham and Heather returned to live in Whittington after their travels. "We always said that when I'd finished in football, we'd come to live in Whittington - and that's exactly what we did."

INDUCTED 2022 - Sources:

Testimonial Match Programme 27 April 1965

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Williams_\(footballer,_born_1938\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Williams_(footballer,_born_1938)) Retrieved 27 April 2022

<https://www.fourfourtwo.com/features/secrecy-and-delight-remembering-george-bests-first-team-debut-1963> Retrieved 27 April 2022

Playing Career	
Years	Team
1955-1972	West Bromwich Albion
Football League Cup Winner 1966	
FA Cup Winner 1968	
1972-1975	Weymouth
1960-1968	Wales (26)
Management Career	
1972-1975	Weymouth
1981-1982	Cardiff City
1987-1989	RoPS
1991	RoPS
1995	RoPS

OSWESTRY GAMES 2012 SPORTING HALL OF FAME

Matt Walker

b 25th May 1999

Downhill Mountain Bike Racer

Matt attended West Felton CE Primary School from nursery moving on to The Corbet Secondary School in Baschurch until leaving in Year 11.

His interest in motor bikes grew from his father Ian's love of superbike racing when, at the age of 8, Matt spent a little time racing mini motos before discovering mountain bikes a couple of years later through his father's fitness training.

Taken along to his first mountain bike race on his old Saracen hardtail one Sunday, Matt started an obsession with mountain bike racing becoming a huge fan of the sport (especially the downhill bits).

Matt entered his first race in January 2012 in the Forest of Dean when he finished 13th. By the end of that year he had become really competitive finishing 7th in his first National Championships in Llangollen.

He was now addicted and though he played rugby briefly at school, Matt's mountain bike racing had become serious for him and he never looked back.

After racing in the UK for over 2 years sponsored by his father's RockGuardZ business, Matt joined the Madison Saracen team in 2014 as a first-year Youth rider in their development squad. His first race abroad was an iXS European Cup race in Pila, Italy in August 2014 competing against the best Youth riders in Europe where he won the U17 section by almost 7 seconds.



Matt moved up to the Factory Team as a Junior in 2016, winning the second round of the UCI World Cup in Cairns in April that year before going on to win the Junior UCI World Championships at the same venue a year later in September 2017.

In June 2018, Matt earned his first UCI World Cup top ten at Fort William in his debut Elite race then stood on the podium for the first time a year later when placed 5th at Maribor in April 2019.

In 2020, a season dramatically curtailed to only 4 World Cup races by the Coronavirus pandemic, Matt finished fourth or higher in each of the back-to-back World Cup races at Maribor (2) and Lousã (2) ending the season as 2020 UCI World Cup Downhill Champion.

Speaking after the 2020 Championship Matt said: "I have a fantastic team and support network behind me. I really feel the sky is the limit. I

have an amazing opportunity to achieve anything I want in this sport and I want to make the most of it. My worst fear is finishing my career and looking back knowing that I could've done more. I don't want to leave anything on the table."

Major results

2016	April 23rd - 1st UCI Junior World Cup DH - Cairns 4th Overall UCI Junior World Cup DH
2017	June 4th - 1st UCI Junior World Cup DH - Fort William 3rd Overall UCI Junior World Cup DH September 10th - 1st UCI Junior World Championships DH - Cairns
2018	July 22nd - 1st UK National Championships DH - Glencoe
2020	1st Overall 2020 UCI World Cup DH

INDUCTED 2022 - Sources:

Account by Matt Walker October 2021

<https://www.rootsandrain.com/rider1906/matt-walker-elt/results/filters/page1/> Retrieved 13 April 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0C64IMZ1lw> 'GMBN Meets Matt Walker' Viewed 13 April 2022