

History of The Jersey Spartan Athletic Club

25 YEARS JERSEY SPARTAN ATHLETIC CLUB

1978 - Four Islanders: Ken White, Peter Drinkwater, Mike Romeril and Mark Pidgeon returned from a Swiss mountain race resolved to form a running club, looking around at their 'spartan' resources hit on a name for their baby -

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Martin Hebden, Derek Taylor, Sam O'Hare, Betty McGough and others soon joined them and the present organisation was founded.

1979 - Colin Campbell elected President of the JSAC. The Club intends to arrange regular competition in any branch of athletics where there is sufficient demand and reliable offers of help in coaching and organising.

1980 - The first ever Coca Cola Marathon (26 miles and 385 yards) at Rue des Pres with 28 entrants. Winner Pat Tobin in 2.46.58; 2nd Mike Hayhurst (Guernsey) 2.53.32; 3rd Ken White 2.53.52.

1981 - Tony Satchwell won three of the four disciplines: hammer, discus and shot in a four throw championship meeting in Caen and came 4th in javelin which he throws infrequently. A dedicated athlete, who has almost single handedly carried Jersey's shot and discus flag regularly to England and France.

1982 - Ken White knocked 26 seconds off the long standing 5,000m record held by Peter Drinkwater and Ken shattered the 10,000m record in Guernsey by another 22 seconds.

1983 - Members of the JSAC were honoured with a visit by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor General Sir Peter Whiteley and Lady Whiteley.

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1984 - Since its formation in 1979, JSAC has grown into one of the largest sports clubs on the Island, not only in membership, but the standard of performance has improved considerably, to the point where junior and senior athletes are competing successfully at County level on the mainland.

1985 - Because of a clash with a Southern League fixture it is unlikely that a team will be raised for the Manx Games, the first Island Games.

1986 - Work under way on FB track. In six years JSAC has grown from 80 members to over 900. Michael Guégan and Tony Satchwell represented Jersey in Athletics at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

19/09/1987 - The official opening of the half million pound complex at FB Fields took place, and doing the honours was David Hemery MBE (1968 Olympic 400m Hurdles Gold Medallist in Mexico – world record of 48.1 seconds).

1988 Jersey Games - British champion Judy Oakes produced a superb winning shot putt throw of 19.01m (35cm away from her own British record). £30,000 sponsorship from Coca Cola/Le Riche.

1989 Jersey Games - Roger Black ran 46.2 seconds in the 400 metres, the third fastest time by a Briton this year and a sensational re-launch by the European 400 metre champion. The Island's athletes have moved out of the darkness into a highly efficient floodlighting system.

1990 Jersey Games - Roger Black, double European Champion 400 metres and Kriss Akabusi, European champion 400 metre Hurdles, shared centre stage both with a time of 51.3 seconds for the 400 metres. Bill Tweed represents Jersey in the New Zealand Commonwealth Games in the Marathon.

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1991 Jersey Games - Colin McKenzie, British No. 3, threw the javelin 78.88 metres and broke the track record by 12 metres.

1992 Jersey Games - John Regis, Olympic Bronze medallist and current joint British 200 metres record holder won the 200 metres with a time of 20.85, beating the previous track record of 21.3 set by Roger Black and Kriss Akabusi in 1990.

1993 Jersey Games - A mere clip of the heels denied Dalton Grant, British International high jumper a record of 2.38, Grant jumped 2.24.

1994 - Unfortunately the Jersey Games ended in 1993. By this time athletics had become a year round business with the top men and women competing in the southern hemisphere and starting warm weather training during the UK winter. The Modern Hotels group stepped in with a deal worth an estimated £3,500 for the Half Marathon following the withdrawal of Le Riches Coca Cola.

1995 - Alan Harrison was Jersey's only Gibraltar Islands Games athlete to strike gold.

1996 - Colin Campbell steps down as President of the Club after 15 years at the helm. The former Olympian said "Success on an international stage compelled him to take an active role in Jersey Athletics on his return to the Island in the late 1970's. Having got so much out of the sport, I felt that I should give something back. I believe I have now done that, and at the age of 50, it is time to move on." Terry Ward became the new President. Colin accepted a position as life Vice President offered in recognition of his long service to the club. Lack of senior athletes force track and field team to quit after eight seasons in the UK League competition.

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1997 - Richard Howard, winner of the Bill Custard Memorial Award, for his courage and determination as he kept on training and supporting his team mates despite being diagnosed diabetic six months before this year's Island Games. He finished 6th in the 3,000 metres Steeplechase and 11th in the 5,000 metres. Karol Dodd's plea that the Minis section could fold if no-one is found to take over as their trainer – fortunately Karen Dingle and Mark Bolla came to the rescue.

1998 - Jersey Island Gold medal winner, Alan Harrison, is the new British Veteran Champion, competing for the first time, he took gold in the 400 metres in a time of 51.4 seconds. U13 Lauren Thérin, star of the show at Hampshire Track&Field Championships, competing for the first time, smashed three championship best performances with three golds in Javelin, Shot and Discus and Simon Phelan, also a newcomer, showed true class and leapt to a winning championship best performance height of 1.47 metres in the high jump.

1999 – The new clubhouse was officially opened by Sport Leisure and Recreation Committee President, Senator Jean Le Maistre. Two of Jersey's promising young athletes were given a boost in their efforts towards international recognition. Lauren Thérin (13) thrower and Ian Carter (15) track and cross country runner and triple jumper, were chosen by the Executive Committee as the first recipients of an annual grant of £1,000 each from a Jersey retired couple, Richard and Shirley Wilkinson, who want to help develop the talents of young athletes. Sportshall athletics introduced with UK organiser, George Bunner, bringing the equipment over for the Sportshall Action day for U15's at Springfield Stadium. Carole Derrien, the Club's throws coach for the past 10 years, won the Jersey Sports Council's Sports Personality of the Year award. Alan Harrison selected as flag bearer for the NatWest Island Games in Gotland. Barbara Parker, Sue Le Ruez and Mae Rea won team gold in the half marathon plus an individual for Barbara Parker. Lauren Thérin (13) at English Schools Championships in the javelin event, achieved a feat that Guernsey's coach David Legg said he has been waiting for 20 years to happen – a Channel Islander to walk away with gold. She then went on to win gold in the javelin event at the Amateur Athletic Association Championships.

2000 - Paul Dingle ranked 1st in U13 Boys Long Jump. New trophies presented at the Club's annual dinner/dance and 21st anniversary, honouring their stars. Daphne Kilroe-Wagstaffe killed in the Kenya Airways air crash off the west coast of Africa. She was responsible for introducing thousands of women to running.

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2001 - Jersey's Athletics Development Officer appointed, Andrew Winnie, formerly of Shetland Islands, who has an exceptional coaching record. He enters Sportshall teams in the UK championships, with just rewards; and launches a summer school with the aid of a £2,000 grant from HSBC in which 48 children took part. Betty McGough received a long service award for her many years of helping the Club from Christine Benning on behalf of South of England Athletic Association. Peter Irving rewarded with the Bill Custard Memorial Award for his spirited come back following a fall on the bend in the Isle of Man Island Games 400 metre Hurdles, eventually placing fourth. Golds for the ladies half marathon team; Maria de Jesus, Barbara Parker and Norma Illing; and two for Claire Lidster in the Hurdles and a gold for Ian Carter in the 1500 metres and golds for both 4 x 400 metre relay teams. Bronze in the Javelin event for U15 Lauren Thérin at the Nestle Schools International in Dublin.

2002 - The formation of the Ansbacher Channel Islands Athletic Club to compete in the Southern Men's and Women's League matches in the UK, resulting in the top position for the men and runner up position for the women and a superb victory in the British Athletic League Golden Jubilee Plate Final. Ian Carter won the 1500 metre U20 national title at the Birmingham Indoor Arena. Spartan dozen head for Caen Indoor Athletics at Mondeville Stadium. U11 Girls and Boys Regional Sportshall Champions.

2003 - At an Extraordinary General Meeting Club members agreed to accept the Royal Bank of Canada's offer of an annual sponsorship deal of £10,000. At the first records achievement evening, a Royal Bank of Canada representative presented the following awards: U13 Girls and Boys and U15 Boys Wessex League trophies and athlete of the match certificates; 10 Grade 1 AAA's standard certificates; 54 Club records medals and new trophies for Outstanding Athlete of the Match – Club Championships to U15 Boy Jamie Stevenson and Outstanding Athlete of the Match – Inter Insular to U20 Woman Lauren Thérin. U13 Girls and U15 Boy Stephen Prosser runners up in Sportshall National Final. Andrew Winnie awarded Coach of the Year and Ansbacher Channel Islands Athletic Club awarded Team of the Year at the Total CI Awards presentation at Springfield Stadium. Veteran Alan Harrison is British Masters Indoor 400 metre champion and World Masters Champion for both relays. Two golds in the hurdles for Claire Lidster and a gold in the 10,000 metres for Joanne McGarry at the Guernsey Island Games. Lauren Thérin threw the discus 47.11 metres at the Somerset Championships, the required qualifying distance was 45.85, and was subsequently called up by the Great Britain team for the World Youth Championships in Montreal, Canada. (Coach: John Hillier of London).
