

Fact file: achievements – facts and figures about women and girls in sport

Women's sporting history: a century of British achievement

1900

- **Charlotte Cooper** was the first female Olympic medallist. She won the women's tennis singles.

1908

- **Madge Syers** won a gold medal in the Olympic women's figure skating event, the first time the event was held.
- **Sybil Newall**, an archer, was the oldest woman (at 52) to win a gold medal in the Summer Games.
- British yachtswoman **Frances Clytie Rivett-Carnac** and her husband won gold at the Olympics, the first time a mixed event was sanctioned by the IOC.

1920

- **Dick Kerr** Ladies football team beat **St Helen's Ladies** 4-0 at Goodison Park in front of a crowd of 53,000 with a further 12,000 unable to gain admission.

1932

- **Cecilia Colledge**, competing in the Olympic figure skating, was the youngest ever female in the Winter Games. She was 11 years old.

1933

- **Gwen Neligan** became the first woman to win the Fencing Foil World Title.
- **Peggy Scriven** became the first Briton to win the French Tennis Championship.

1934

- England's opener **Myrtle MacLagan** scored the first century in women's international cricket.

1948

- **Nilla de Wharton Burr** became the only British woman to win the World Individual Archery Title twice.

1950

- **Helen Elliot** won her second women's Table Tennis World Title.

1952

- **Jeannette Altwegg** won the Olympic Figure Skating Title to add to her World Championship Title in 1951.

1954

- **Di and Ros Rowe** won the women's World Table Tennis Doubles Title.

1955

- **Gillian Mary Sheen** was the only British fencer ever to win an Olympic gold medal.
- **Judy Grinham** won the Olympic 100m Backstroke, Britain's first swimming medal for 36 years.

1960

- **Anita Lonsbrough** won a gold medal in the Olympic 200m Breaststroke.

1961

- **Angela Mortimer** won the Wimbledon Tennis Singles Title.

1964

- **Mary Rand** won Olympic gold in the long jump, the first ever gold for Britain in women's athletics.
- **Ann Packer** won Olympic gold in the 800m and silver in the 400m.

1966

- **Beryl Burton** won her fifth Cycling World Championships Individual Pursuit.

1967

- **Beryl Burton** covered 446.19km in a 12-hour cycling time trial, 9.25km beyond the British men's record.
- **Jeannette Stewart-Wood** became Britain's first water-skier to win a World Title.

1969

- **Ann Jones** won the Wimbledon Tennis Singles Title, the first female left-hander to win the title.

1972

- **Mary Peters** won Olympic gold in the Pentathlon.
- **Sylvia Gore** scored the first England women's international football goal in the match against Scotland.

1973

- **England** won the first women's Cricket World Cup.

1976

- **England** played **Australia** in a One-day International at Lord's, the first time women played at the sports headquarters.

1977

- **Virginia Wade** won the Wimbledon Tennis Singles Title.
- Riding Barony Fort, **Charlotte Brew** was the first woman to ride in the Grand National.
- **Heather McKay** won her 16th successive British Open Women's Squash Title.

1978

- As a member of the gold medal British team, **Caroline Bradley** was the first woman to win a gold medal when the Show Jumping World Championships were opened to men and women competing together.

1980

- **Jane Bridge** became Britain's first Judo World Champion.

1981

- **Sue Brown** became the first female cox in the Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race.

1982

- **Wendy Norman** won the Modern Pentathlon World Championships.

1984

- **Tessa Sanderson** won Britain's first Olympic gold medal for a throwing event by winning the Javelin.
- Ultra marathon runner **Eleanor Adams** became the first woman to cover 500 miles in a six-day race.
- **Liz Hobbs** won her second women's World Water Ski-Racing Championship.
- Partnering Christopher Dean, **Jayne Torvill** won the Olympic Figure Skating gold medal to add to her four World Title wins.

1985

- **England's** women's squash team won the first of four successive World Team Titles.
- **Sarah Springman** became the first British triathlete to win a European Title, winning at Ironman distances in 1985 and 1986.

1987

- **Laura Davies** became the first British winner of the US Women's Golf Open.
- **Fatima Whitbread** won the Javelin title at the World Athletics Championships.
- **Judy Leden** won the first of two Hang Gliding World Titles.
- **England** defeated Wales in the first women's home nations rugby union international.

1988

- **Sharon Rendle** won Olympic gold in the Judo (demonstration event).

1989

- **Martine Le Moignan** became the first British woman to win the Individual World Squash Title.
- **Karen Briggs** won her fourth Judo World Championship Title.
- **Molly Samuels** won the World Karate Championship.
- **Crossfield** (Warrington) Ladies beat Halifax Ladies in the first Women's Rugby League Cup Final.

1991

- **Liz McColgan** won the 10,000m Title at the World Athletics Championships.
- **England** won the European Hockey Cup.

1992

- **Sally Gunnell** won Olympic gold in the 400m hurdles.
- **Susan Thompson** became Britain's first female professional pool player.
- **Andrea Holmes** and **Lorraine Lyon** became Synchronised Pairs Trampoline World Champions.

1993

- **England** won the Cricket World Cup beating New Zealand in the final at Lord's.
- **Sally Gunnell** broke the world record on route to taking the 400m Hurdles Title at the Athletics World Championships.
- **Karen Pickering** became the first British female swimmer to win a world title with the short-course 200m Freestyle in a Commonwealth record time.
- **Jan Brittin** scored her 1,000th World Cup run during the Cricket World Cup Final.

1994

- **England** won the Rugby Union World Cup beating the USA in the final.
- **Wendy Toms** became the first female linesperson in a Football League match.
- **Allison Fisher** won her seventh Women's World Snooker Championship.

1995

- Cyclist **Yvonne McGregor** completed 47.411km in one hour to become the first British woman to hold the one-hour world record.
- **Jenny Pitman** became the first woman trainer of a Grand National winner with Corbiere.

1996

- **Kathryn Leng** established a new women's cricket world record sixth wicket (132) and eighth wicket (114) stands with **Barbara Daniels** and **Melissa Reynard** respectively against New Zealand.

1997

- **Alison Nicholas** won the US Open Golf Championship.
- England footballer **Gill Coulter** was awarded her 100th international cap.
- **Loretta Sollars** won the inaugural London Triathlon.
- **Amateur Boxing Association** implemented rule changes to permit amateur female boxing in Britain.

1998

- **Marylebone Cricket Club** admitted women as members, ending a 211-year all-male ruling at Lord's.
- **Sylvia Brown** won the inaugural veterans World Fencing Championships, Britain's first fencing gold medal in over 20 years.
- **Lucy Pascoe** and **Nicole Cotterell** won the women's pairs gold medal at the World Sports Aerobics Championships.
- **Jane Couch** won the right to gain a professional boxing licence in Britain.
- **Ashia Hansen** won the Triple Jump at the European Indoor Championships with a new indoor world record.
- **Oxford** won the Women's University Boat Race for the 10th year in succession.
- **Di Ellis** became a life steward at the Henley Royal Regatta, the first woman to be appointed in 159 years.
- **Miriam Batten** and **Gillian Lindsay** became Double Scull World Champions, Britain's first women's gold medal in an Olympic boat class.

1999

- **Cassie Champion** became Squash World Champion.
- **Yvette Baker** became Orienteering World Champion.
- **Cath Bishop** won the World Indoor Rowing Championships.
- **Caroline McAllister** retained the World Indoor Bowls Singles Title.
- England hockey player **Karen Brown** announced her retirement from international hockey. During her career she collected 355 international caps, including 140 for Great Britain, making her the most capped player in the world.

Watch this space for news of British elite athletes of the 21st century.

The Women's Sports Foundation has a vision of a society which celebrates the diversity of women and girls, and enables them to benefit from, excel at and fulfil their potential through the sport of their choice.

Supporting women's sport

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Women's Sports Foundation

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