

N U T S N O T E S

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Editor: Andrew Huxtable

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EDITORIAL

Ian Steedman has supplied more information on the booking arrangements for next year's Commonwealth Games: priority for tickets will be given to associations, clubs, etc. and only then can accommodation be booked en bloc. Ticket prices are as follows (athletics only):

July 16 (opening ceremony)	Grandstand £4, £3, £2
	Front arena 30s., £1
	Rear arena 15s., 10s.
17 (preliminaries)	Grandstand 5s.
	Arena 2s.6d.
18, 21, 22, 23	Grandstand £3, 50s., 30s.
	Front arena £1, 15s.
	Rear arena 10s., 7s.6d.
24 (preliminaries)	As for July 17
/Series covering above except July 16: Grandstand £12 10s.,	
£10 10s.,	
£6 10s.	
Front arena £4, £3	
Rear arena £2, 30s./	
25 (inc.closing ceremony)	As for July 16

Please let me know your definite ticket requirements as soon as possible; I will pass these to Ian to process. Also indicate whether you require accommodation.

Copies of the AGM minutes are available from the Secretary.

MISCELLANY

\$ Who's Who in Journalism 1969 isn't as exciting as it sounds because it doesn't contain any potted biographies, merely classified lists of newspapers and magazines published in the UK, with only heads of main departments shown. This means that the only journalists specialising in athletics included are Mel Watman and Dave Cocksedge!

\$ Congratulations are in order to Tim and Janet Lynch-Staunton, and Les and Shirley Crouch on the births of respectively:

April 23	Graham Murray	2.58 kg/5 lb.11 oz
July 16	John Clark	3.91 kg/8 lb 10 oz

\$ Quote of the Year: "I'm terrible with names." So that's why Stan was co-opted on to the BAAB Team Selection Sub-Committee!

NUTS RECORDS

3kmW: 13:20.6 Colin Young (6) 22 Jun 69 Crystal Palace

FROM THE NUTS ARCHIVES

"When the Prime Minister arrived at the British universities athletics championships in Liverpool on Saturday Mr R.Sparks, the commentator, announced: "Here is your Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Harold Macmillan." Later Mr Wilson disclosed that he had once been announced as "the Right Hon. Harold MacWilson". Mr Sparks is to write a letter to Mr Wilson apologizing for "his blunder". (The Times, 17.5.65)

FORTHCOMING FEATURES IN NUTS NOTES --

Peter Matthews continues his analyses of top UK performers
Bob Sparks publishes his extensive analysis of 1,500m and 1M marks
.... and what are you going to contribute?

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS AND PROJECTED

Please send details to the Editor if you wish to be included in this section; offers to co-operate on particular projects should be sent to the compiler(s) direct.

- Shaun Adair - UK Track Directory
- Dave Cocksedg &
Alan Lindop - Progressive UK junior & youth best performances
- Roger Gynn - Field event series
- Andrew Huxtable - Best brothers & sisters (world and UK);
Best married couples (world and UK);
Best twins (world and UK)
- Peter Martin - WAAA junior & intermediate championship results before 1957;
All-time bests and dates of birth (juniors and intermediates);
Junior age groups (events, weight of impedimenta, etc.) in countries other than UK
- Peter Matthews - Best 10 marks averages by individuals (world and UK);
Best marks in individual events by decathletes & pentathletes (world and UK)
- Keith Morbey - UK top 10 year lists (1919-49);
World, European and Commonwealth relay lists (men & women);
UK relay lists (all age groups, men & women);
Championship results and record progression in relays
- Bob Sparks - Growth curve analysis
- Dave Terry &
Peter Lovesey - UK top 10 year lists (1866-1918)
- Chris Thorne - World best performers by age (men & women under 20);
World all-time indoor best performers (men & women);
World all-time best performers at non-standard events (men)

UK ALL-TIME LIST - No.1 Pentathlon by Andrew Huxtable

- 3237 David Hemery (1) 3 May 69 Crystal Palace
(7.11 38.74 22.1 29.04 4:22.8)
- 3155 Peter Fuller (1) 28 Jul 68 Watford
(5.90 49.22 23.1 31.96 4:14.0)
- 3121 Derek Clarke (1) 28 Sep 63 York
(5.84 49.33 24.1 45.03 4:42.0)
- 3006 Paul Caviel (1) 14 May 69 Troedyrhiw
(5.69 43.43 24.0 40.23 4:41.2)
- 2992 James Smith (2) 3 May 69 Crystal Palace
(6.59 44.56 23.2 34.44 5:00.0)
- 2979 Andrew Mollett (3) 3 May 69 Crystal Palace
(6.92 37.04 23.2 34.16 4:53.8)
- 2939 Robert Walker (2) 28 Sep 63 York
(6.02 42.33 24.1 38.68 4:42.0)
- 2935 Antony Tymms (1) 15 Jul 69 Norbiton
(6.42 43.82 22.6 32.46 5:22.0)
- 2921 Norman Watkins (6) 12 Aug 55 San Sebastian
(6.37 47.86 24.1 34.38 4:56.8)
- 2903 Michael Gorham (2) 28 Jul 68 Watford
(5.77 47.04 23.4 32.87 4:40.9)

MEMBER'S PENTATHLON AND DINNER

The pentathlon was contested by only 7 members (Chris Thorne unfortunately having to withdraw at the last moment) in excellent conditions at Battersea Park on August 3. A festive atmosphere was lent to the proceedings by floats and bands (the strains of "When the Saints go marching in" appropriately floated across to the discus circle only minutes before the 1,500m was due to start!) which were part of a fund-raising effort for the Save the Children Fund. The competition was a walk-over for Dave Terry. Dorothy Shirley participated in the first four events but very gallantly did not run the last event - otherwise a certain member who shall remain nameless would have probably finished behind her! Officials: Doug Busst (starter and field judge), Peter Hopkins (field judge and time keeper), Andrew Huxtable (measurements and timekeeper) and Martin James (ditto). Result:

1, M.D.Terry	2095	(5.61	35.10	24.7	25.86	5:42.4)
2, D.P.Dallman	1865	(4.87	25.58	27.0	23.09	4:33.0)
3, D.P.Turner	1618	(4.41	29.97	27.8	20.33	4:45.6)
4, P.J.Matthews	1398	(4.61	29.43	27.2	19.27	5:40.0)
5, R.Sparks	1350	(5.21	26.68	27.6	20.12	6:17.3)
6, A.Lindop	1168	(5.20	0	26.0	18.75	6:14.0)
7, M.F.Watman	1077	(4.54	15.65	29.0	20.22	5:24.3)

The dinner was contested at the Hostaria Romana in the evening by many more members, wives and others (the Treasurer undoubtedly has the precise figure) together with guests David Hemery and Martin Winbolt Lewis - what a charming couple they made! Other internationals present: Dorothy Shirley and Mike Fleet. The Secretary made a number of attempts on gastronomic records: his foremost achievements were 5.1 for glass of red wine (twice), 3.5 for white wine and 3.2 for black coffee (temperature not known).

WORLD ALL-TIME BEST PERFORMANCES IN RELAYS by David Dallman

The following lists are given for marks made at Imperial distances (except for 400m), since the performances included were all made over these distances. Unless stated otherwise all athletes and non-national teams are from the USA. The information listed should be self-explanatory except perhaps for the number in brackets immediately following the athlete's name. This number is the leg of the relay on which the mark was achieved. Some marks were made in medley relays. The standard (US) order of legs in these relays is as follows:

Sprint Medley (1 mile): 440y, 220y, 220y, 880y.

Distance Medley (2.5 m): 440y, 880y, 1,320y, 1 mile.

220yards

19.4 Tommie Smith	(4)	San Jose State	1:22.1	(1)	Fresno	13.5.67
19.5 Smith	(4)	San Jose State	1:23.7	(2)	S.Barbara	25.3.67
John Carlos	(4)	San Jose State	1:22.7	(1)	Knoxville	19.4.69
19.7 Bob Hayes	()	Florida A&M	1:23.4	(1)	L.Angeloes	18.5.62
19.8 Henry Carr	(4)	Arizona State	1:22.9	(1)	Fresno	11.5.63
Jim Hines	()	Texas Southern	1:23.6	(1)	hAustin	31.3.67
Emmett Taylor	(4)	Ohio Univ.	1:23.7	(1)	D.Moines	26.4.68
Carlos	(4)	San Jose State	1:22.3	(1)	Fresno	10.5.69

400metres (+440yards time less 0.3)

43.2 Ron Freeman	(2)	USA	2:56.1	(1)	Mexico C.	20.10.68
43.4 Freeman	(2)	USA	3:00.7	(1)	hMexico C.	19.10.68
43.5 Lee Evans	(4)	USA	2:56.1	(1)	Mexico C.	20.10.68
43.6+ Larry James	(4)	Villanova Univ.	3:06.1y	(1)	Philadel.	27.4.68
43.8 Tommie Smith	(3)	USA	2:59.6	(1)	L.Angeloes	24.7.66
43.9+ Evans	(3)	San Jose State	3:03.5y	(1)	Fresno	13.5.67
44.0e Daniel Rudisha	(4)	Kenya	3:00.8	(2)	hMexico C.	19.10.68

/over

44.1+ Adolph Plummer	(4) Univ. of NM	3:08.1y(3)	L. Angeles	17.5.63
44.2+ Wendell Mottley	(4) Trinidad	3:02.8y(1)	Kingston	13.8.66
James	(3) USA	2:56.1 (1)	Mexico C.	20.10.68
+ Evans	(4) San Jose State	3:11.1y(1)	Walnut	27.4.69
44.3+ Eddie Southern	(3) Texas Univ.	3:09.1y(1)	Lawrence	19.4.58
Henry Carr	(4) USA	3:02.8 (1)	Hannover	1.8.63
+ Thurman Boggess	()			67
44.4 Clifton Forbes	(4) Jamaica	3:05.9 (3)	Winnipeg	5.8.67
Jan Werner	(3) Poland	3:00.5 (4)	Mexico C.	20.10.68
+ Len Van Hofwegen	() UCLA	3:03.4y(1)	Knoxville	21.6.69
44.5 Carr	(4) USA	3:04.4 (1)	Moscow	21.7.63
Carr	(4) USA	3:00.7 (1)	Tōkyō	21.10.64
Evans	(2) USA	2:59.6 (1)	L. Angeles	24.7.66
+ Ed Roberts	(3) Trinidad	3:02.8y(1)	Kingston	13.8.66
44.6 Herb McKenley	(3) Jamaica	3:03.9 (1)	Helsinki	27.7.52
+ Carr	(2) Arizona State	3:05.3y(1)	Houston	8.6.63
+ Carr	() Arizona State	3:10.1y()	Tempe	16.4.64
+ Tom Randolph	(4) Western Michigan	3:09.3y(3)	Philadel.	27.4.68
+ Vince Matthews	() J.C. Smith	3:12.5y()	Philadel.	29.4.67
Rudisha	(4) Kenya	3:01.7 (1)	Mexico C.	5.10.68
Colin Campbell	(2) UK	3:03.6 (2)	Mexico C.	19.10.68
Charles Asati	(1) Kenya	2:59.6 (2)	Mexico C.	20.10.68
Gerhard Hennige	(2) West Germany	3:00.5 (3)	Mexico C.	20.10.68

880yards

1:44.8 Peter Snell (NZ)	(4) Brit. Common.	7:18.0 (1)	London	14.9.60
1:45.7 Felix Johnson	(4) Prairie View A&M	3:16.3 (1)	Modesto	24.5.69
1:46.1 Bob Day	(4) UCLA	7:20.6 (2)	L. Angeles	15.5.64
Jim Ryun	(4) Kansas State	3:15.2 (1)	Austin	31.3.67
1:46.5 George Kerr (Jam)	(4) Illinois State	3:17.8 (1)	D. Moines	24.4.59
eJohnson	(4) Prairie View A&M	7:27.2 (1)	D. Moines	25.4.69
1:46.6 Jerry Siebert	(4) USA	7:19.4 (2)	London	14.9.60
Mark Winzenreid	(3) Wisconsin	7:18.4 (2)	D. Moines	25.4.69

1,320yards

2:53.0 Frank Murphy (Eir)	(3) Villanova Univ.	9:38.0 (1)	Philadel.	26.4.68
2:54.6 Roy Shaw	(3) Harvard Univ.	9:40.2 (2)	Philadel.	26.4.68
2:55.3 Carl Trentdale	(3)			69
2:55.6 Norman Hoffmann	(3) Oregon State	9:40.6 (1)	Fresno	11.5.63
John Link	(3) USC	9:40.6 (1)	Fresno	13.5.67
2:55.8 Dutton	(3) Kansas State	9:46.0 (2)	Austin	1.4.67
2:56.0 Jim Beatty	(3) Santa Clara YV	9:35.0 (1)	Fresno	14.5.60
Norman Lloyd (Can)	(3) Stanford Univ.	9:40.6 (2)	Fresno	14.5.60
Juris Luzins	(3) William & Mary	9:39.8 (2)	Philadel.	26.4.69

1,500metres

3:39.9 Michel Jazy	(3) France	14:49.0 (1)	St Maur	25.6.65
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1 mile

3:55.6 Jim Ryun	(4) Kansas State	9:33.8 (1)	D. Moines	29.4.67
3:57.6 Ryun	(4) Kansas State	9:33.0 (1)	Lawrence	19.4.69
3:57.7 Dyrol Burleson	(4) Oregon State	16:09.0 (1)	Fresno	12.5.62
3:58.0 Ryun	(4) Kansas Frosh	16:54.0 (1)	Emporia	16.4.66

400metres (Women)

51.8 Kathy Hammond	(4) USA	3:36.7 (2)	London	12.8.69
52.0 Nicole Duclos	(3) France	3:34.2 (1)	Paris	6.7.69
Patricia Lowe	(3) Birchfield H	3:47.0 (2)	Birmingham	2.8.69
52.5 Colette Besson	(4) France	3:34.2 (1)	Paris	6.7.69
Lillian Board	(4) UK	3:36.6 (1)	London	12.8.69
52.9 Board	(4) UK	3:37.6 (1)	London	22.6.69

d - doubtful timing

e - estimated time

UNBELIEVABLE HAMMER THROWING AT SCUNTHORPE: A True Story by David Turner

Sunday July 27, 1969 proved to be one of the most memorable days in British Athletics. Hitherto unrecorded in any of the national daily newspapers, or for that matter the "Scunthorpe Star" and "Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph", a rare feat was accomplished at Quibell Park. Few of the spectators were able to appreciate the significance of it, but privileged few that they were to witness this performance: the best competitive throw by a current member of the NUTS.

Relegated to the back of beyond, away from the arena that is, a grand total of three competitors (three more, be it noted, than the number of 110m hurdlers) assembled for the Lincolnshire County AAA hammer event. For the record, they were E. Johnston (RAF), the favourite; G.D. Applegate (RAF, Cranwell); and a relatively unknown quantity as far as hammer throwing was concerned, D.P. Turner (Borough Road CAC/Scunthorpe H&AC). The scene set, Turner fresh from finishing 7th and last in the 5,000m (as expected he generously led the field for the first lap, and then inexplicably faded), and looking bronzed from his activities on the French Mediterranean coast during the previous week, opted out of any preliminary throwing. Clearly this was a subtle tactical manoeuvre, for Johnston was suitably impressed with the brown tracksuit as to enquire how this mysterious competitor had fared against such 49.00/160-9 throwers from the College as Marden, Davison and Dickenson. However, all advantage Turner had hoped to gain by not warming up disappeared when the officials announced that he was to throw first. With one official posted with one end of the tape at the 60.96/200-0 mark, the newcomer to British hammer-throwing circles, employing 1 1/2 turns, unleashed his first round effort of 14.20/46-7. Applegate was next and managed a modest 45.12/148-0 taking him narrowly into the lead. Following him came the other RAF man, a 1969 AAA vest holder, who went into first place with an effort of 53.78/176-5.

Unfortunately for all fairy story believers, this saga did not have a happy ending. Disappointed too will be all keen followers of Popeye, suitably strengthened by his spinach in the nick of time, for the order failed to change again, although every man improved on his first-round throw; Johnston took the title with his third round mark of 54.14/177-7, with Applegate winning the silver medal with 46.06/151-1 in round two. Turner, undaunted by his first throw, recorded the following incredible series, breaking the 15.24/50-0 barrier at the fourth attempt for the first time in his career, and establishing a personal best with his last effort, clearly saving everything for this throw: 14.20, 12.75, F, 15.64, 14.04, 15.77/51-9. To put things in perspective, this last mentioned performance was only 28 ins/71 cm. further than Geoff Capes managed with a similarly weighted implement (less a 4 ft/1.22 wire and employing a different method of release) on the same day. Finally, one of the recorders thought there had occurred an error on the official result sheet, with perhaps a digit 1 missing for Turner, whose previous week's training consisted of ...

NATIONAL ATHLETICS LIBRARY

Malcolm Warburton has now installed himself at the Main Library, University of Birmingham and has collected a fair amount of material. Bob Phillips has given a large and varied collection: complete (or almost complete) sets of "The Athlete", "Modern Athlete" and "Modern Athletics", several years of "Track Newsletter" and oddments of many other periodicals, including some French and other foreign ones. He also sent a good selection of books on the Olympic Games and on coaching as well as 10 biographical works. Also a wide range of statistical material, mostly not in complete sets. Malcolm has contacted about 20 organisations and individuals, of whom Harold Abrahams and Norris McWhirter have already contributed to the collection.

NUTS RECORDS

1,500m - Men	3:57.7	Malcolm Warburton	(1)	16 Aug 69	Warrington
- Women	5:08.4	Elizabeth Sissons	(1)	17 Aug 69	Ewell

UK ALL-TIME 4x110 YARDS RELAY LIST (CLUBS) by Keith Morbey

41.4	(1)	Polytechnic H	31 Aug 63	White City	(M.N.Potter T.Akinbobola A.M.Ronay R.M.Frith)
	(1)h	Polytechnic H	27 Aug 66	White City	(Frith N.J.Overhead Ronay M.P.Cheskin)
	(1)	Polytechnic H	27 Aug 66	White City	(Frith Overhead Ronay Cheskin)
41.5	(1)	Woodford Green AC	26 Aug 61	White City	(R.Jones D.H.Jones A.E.Bailey C.R.Jones)
	(2)	Woodford Green AC	31 Aug 63	White City	(M.J.Marston C.R.Jones D.H.Jones Bailey)
41.6	(3)	Birchfield H	31 Aug 63	White City	(P.F.Radford T.B.Jones R.M.Impett D.Harding)
	(2)	Woodford Green AC	27 Aug 66	White City	(J.C.Togher Bailey Marston D.H.Jones)
41.7	(1)	Woodford Green AC	25 Aug 62	White City	(M.Anderson D.H.Jones Bailey R.Jones)
	(1)	Birchfield H	6 Jun 63	Oxford	(Harding Radford T.B.Jones J.M.Morbey)
	(1)	Woodford Green AC	29 Aug 64	White City	(C.R.Jones Bailey D.H.Jones R.Jones)
	(1)	Thames Valley H	20 Aug 66	Bracknell	(J.Barrett A.Dudley M.A.Hauck R.S.Steane)
	(3)	Thames Valley H	27 Aug 66	White City	(Barrett Dudley Hauck Steane)
	(3)	Thames Valley H	26 Aug 67	White City	(A.Turnbull J.Sexton Barrett Steane)
41.8	(1)h	Thames Valley H	29 Aug 59	White City	(J.E.P.Morgan J.S.O.Omagbemi D.H.Segal B.M.Shaw)
	(1)	Birchfield H	30 Apr 60	Nottingham	
	(2)	Birchfield H	3 Oct 62	Birmingham (PB)	(Radford J.N.Whitehead T.B.Jones J.N.Barry)
	+ (1)	Cardiff AAC	23 Aug 69	Crystal Palace	(C.C.O.Longe L.Davies)
41.9	(1)	Polytechnic H	9 May 64	Loughborough	(M.N.Potter Burgess Ronay Frith)
	+ (1)	Polytechnic H	12 May 68	Woodford	
	(1)	Thames Valley H	25 May 68	Southall	(Barrett Dudley Hauck Steane)
	(1)	Pilkington Rec H & AC	29 Jun 68	Blackburn	
	(1)	Wolverhampton & Bilston	7 Sep 68	Birmingham (PB)	(Jones R.Banthorpe D.G.Griffiths R.M.Walters)
42.0	(3)	Thames Valley H	26 Aug 61	White City	
	()h	Polytechnic H	29 Aug 64	White City	
	()h	Brighton AC	29 Aug 64	White City	
	(1)h	Polytechnic H	18 Sep 65	White City	(Frith Akinbobola Ronay Cheskin)
	+ (1)	Warrington AC	5 Jul 69	St Helens	
	+ 4x100 metres time plus 0.2				

BRITISH BEST PERFORMANCES OF ALL TIME ANALYSED by Peter Matthews

Shot Putt

	Best	18.50	Over 18.00	17.50	17.00
Arthur Rowe	19.56	25	42	58	67
Jeffrey Teale	19.18	7	22	29	36
Dr Martyn Lucking	18.62	1	4	24	65
Michael Lindsay	18.50	1	6	42	86
Alan Carter	18.26		1	4	24
William Tancred	17.88			3	12
John Watts	17.57			1	1
Geoffrey Capes	17.47				3
Barry King	17.15				2
		34	75	161	296

Discus Throw

	Best	54.00	Over 53.00	52.00	51.00
John Watts	57.78	5	10	12	20
William Tancred	57.76	21	38	53	68
Arthur McKenzie	57.58	12	17	28	41
Peter Tancred	57.56	4	5	7	16
Gerald Carr	57.00	16	19	33	60
Michael Lindsay	55.32	2	8	24	49
Mark Pharaoh	54.26	1	2	2	4
Eric Cleaver	54.00	1	2	9	13
Barry King	53.66		1	2	2
John Hillier	53.20		1	4	10
Michael Cushion	52.92			6	12
Peter Nimmo	52.80			6	9
John Sheldrick	51.98				3
Andrzej Drzewiecki	51.52				1
Dennis Roscoe	51.42				1

62

103

186

309

Hammer Throw

	Best	64.00	Over 62.00	60.00	58.00
Howard Payne	68.06	27	48	106	161
Michael Ellis	64.94	5	18	36	52
Barry Williams	64.36	1	4	14	21
Bruce Fraser	63.20		1	22	37
Peter Seddon	61.72			6	14
Lawrence Bryce	61.72			7	35
Anthony Elvin	61.34			1	9
Peter Allday	59.62				9
David Bayes	58.94				1
Dr Ewan Douglas	58.68				1
Lawrence Hall	58.56				1
Donald Anthony	58.14				1

33

71

192

342

Javelin Throw

	Best	79.00	Over 76.00	73.00	70.00
John FitzSimons	81.92	4	15	30	48
David Travis	81.68	8	17	29	48
John McSorley	79.24	1	5	8	34
John Greasley	79.24	1	1	4	16
Colin Smith	77.94		1	4	44
Nigel Sherlock	75.48			3	8
Richard Perkins	74.76			3	16
John Kitching	74.56			2	8
Barry Sanderson	74.52			2	10
Roger Lane	74.32			1	6
Richard Miller	74.30			1	5
Neville Hart-Ives	73.82			1	4
Anthony Edwards	72.78			1	5
Clive Loveland	72.54				14
Victor Mitchell	72.30				1
Geoffrey Hill	72.22				2
Peter Cullen	72.12				4
Kenneth Holmes	70.20				1
Roger Bartlett	70.16				1
Michael Turner	70.06				1

14

39

88

266

(As of September 2, 1969)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1969 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1969 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS
Copies of the ATFS EUROPEAN TRACK & FIELD HANDBOOK (4th edition) are now
available, price 16/8 (post free), from: A.Huxtable, 78 Toynbee Road, SW20
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1969 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1969 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

TOP WORLD AND UK DECATHLETES: AN ANALYSIS by David Dallman

This analysis is based on an updated version (to August 20) of the data given by Peter Matthews in the last issue. The following have been added to that compilation:

Yuriy Dyachkov (USSR)	8235	(7879)
Rudiger Demmig (EGer)	8234	(8029)
Manfred Tiedtke (EGer)	8192	(8013)
Nikolay Aivilov (USSR)	8179	(7945)
David Hemery	7136	(6893)

This brings the total to 37 athletes, distributed by country as follows: EGer - 5; WGer - 6; USSR - 4; USA - 9; UK - 13 (for convenience Yang is considered to be from the USA, where he spent the greater part of his career). One might expect, in an ideal decathlon performance:

- (a) performances close to personal bests in all events;
- (b) a consistently high level of performance throughout the 10 events.

The extent to which this is true in the case of the top world and UK decathletes is investigated here.

The following table shows the difference between the best possible score (obtained from legal personal best marks) and the best score achieved in an actual decathlon competition. One should bear in mind that a small difference could arise simply from a lack of information about the athlete's personal bests. Hopefully the bias due to this possibility is small.

Difference	EGer	WGer	USSR	USA	UK
> 500	--	--	1	4	4
400-499	--	1	1	3	4
300-399	1	5	1	1	1
200-299	3	--	1	--	2
100-199	1	--	--	1	2
Ave. difference	243	357	403	464	414

One can see that most UK and USA athletes have differentials of 400 or more whereas the Germans, especially those from the East, have significantly lower values.

One way to measure the consistency achieved throughout the 10 events would be to take the difference between the highest and lowest individual event scores. However, this would be unduly sensitive to an isolated very good or very bad performance and a better quantity to examine is, for example, the difference between the 3rd highest and the 3rd lowest (i.e. 8th highest) individual event scores. The next table shows this difference. Since the foreign countries all have similar distributions, they are added together in the 5th column.

3rd-8th	EGer	WGer	USSR	USA	non-UK	UK
≥ 250	--	--	--	--	--	3
200-249	--	--	--	--	--	2
150-199	4	--	--	2	6	3
100-149	1	2	4	5	12	1
50-99	--	3	--	--	3	3
< 50	--	1	--	2	3	1
Ave. value	153	89	110	124	119	168

There seems to be a significant tendency for the UK athletes to have higher values, although their average value (168) is not, in fact, much above the highest of the other countries, East Germany (153). In particular, Walde (WGer) has a difference of only 38 points between his 3rd and 8th best scores and one of only 67 points between his 2nd and 9th best. The "best" Briton in this respect is Gaskin with 35 points (3-8) and 136 points (2-9). Of course, such very small differences arise as much by chance from the particular choice of equivalent performances made in setting up the scoring tables as from a real ultra-consistency in performance.

END