

Top spot for Capes and Tancred

SHOT

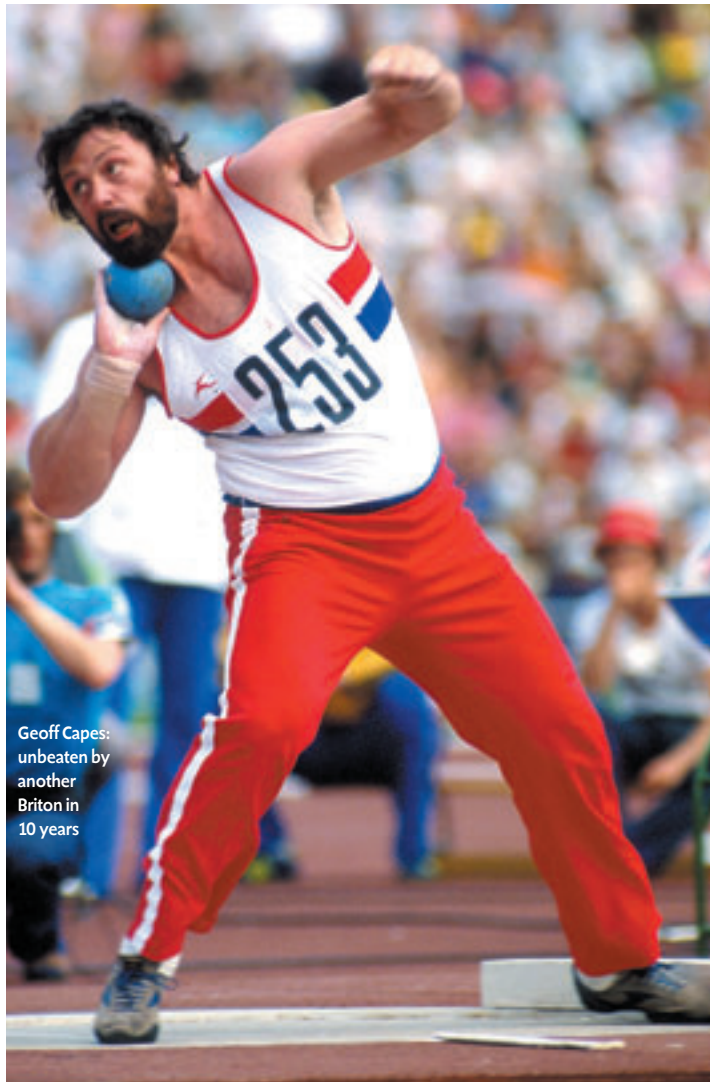
1 Geoff Capes 65

3rd 1974 Eur (2)
1st 1974 & 1978 Comm G (10)
World ranked: 1st 1975 (5), 3rd 1974 & 1976 (4)

UK record: 19.56 on 26.4.1972 (twice), 19.75, 19.82 & 20.18 on 26.7.1972, 20.27 on 14.7.1973, 20.34 on 19.7.1973, 20.47 on 31.7.1973, 20.59 on 6.1.1974, 20.64 on 19.1.1974, 20.74 on 2.2.1974, 20.81 on 22.5.1974, 20.90 on 26.5.1974, 21.00 on 19.6.1974, 21.37 on 10.8.1974, 21.55 on 28.5.1976, 21.68 on 18.5.1980 (held for 31 years) (34)
AAA: 1971 (2nd), 1972, 1973, 1974 (2nd), 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 (2nd) (10)

2 Arthur Rowe 43

1st 1958 Eur (10)
1st 1958 Comm G (5)



Geoff Capes: unbeaten by another Briton in 10 years

MEL WATMAN rates the top British shot and discus throwers of all time, according to championship and record performances

Pictures: Mark Shearman

Scoring system:

Olympics (from 1908): 1st – 25 points, 2nd – 15, 3rd – 10, 4th – 3
World Champs (from 1983): 1st – 15, 2nd – 10, 3rd – 5, 4th – 2
World record-holder (from 1921): 15 (+ extra two points for each full year as record-holder); for records set 1900-1920: 10 points + one point per year; deduct four points if record extended over World War period
World record bonus: Five points when set winning Olympic or world title
European Champs: 1st – 10, 2nd – 5, 3rd – 2
Commonwealth Games: 1st – 5, 2nd – 3, 3rd – 1
UK record: Three points (+ extra one point for each full year as record-holder); for records set 1900-1920: two points + half point per year up to and including 1920; deduct four points if record survived World War II, two points World War I
World ranking: 1st – 5, 2nd – 3, 3rd – 2
AAA titles: (or first UK finisher if in top three) one point

World ranked: 2nd 1961 (3), 3rd 1962 (2)
UK record: 16.94 on 24.7.1957, 17.31 on 11.7.1958, 17.57 on 24.7.1958, 17.68 on 16.8.1958, 17.78 on 23.8.1958, 17.81 on 28.8.1958, 17.96 on 3.9.1958 & 13.9.1958, 18.29 & 18.59 on 14.8.1959, 18.92 on 1.8.1960, 19.11 on 16.10.1960, 19.19 & 19.44 on 5.8.1961, 19.56 on 7.8.1961 (held for 15 years) (18)
AAA: 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961 (5)

3 Robert 'Bonzo' Howland 35

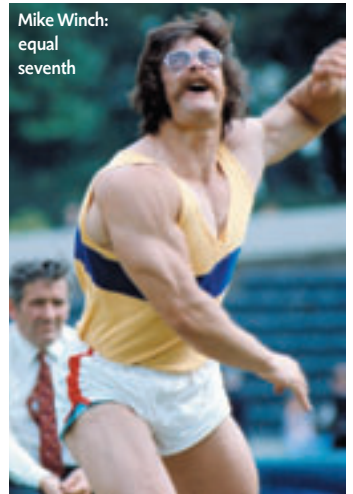
2nd 1930 & 1934 Comm G (6)
UK record: 14.02 on 12.7.1929, 14.54 on 2.7.1932, 14.64 on 30.6.1935, 14.86 on 25.9.1935 (held for 20 years) (23 minus 4 = 19)
AAA: 1929 (2nd), 1930 (2nd), 1932 (2nd), 1933 (2nd), 1934 (3rd), 1935 (2nd), 1936 (2nd), 1937 (2nd), 1938 (2nd), 1939 (2nd) (10)

4 John Savidge 20

1st 1954 Comm G (5)
UK record: 14.90 on 23.7.1949, 15.01 on 4.9.1949, 15.66 on 26.11.1949, 15.84 on 13.5.1950, 16.01 on 19.5.1951, 16.58 on 2.6.1951, 16.71 on 4.5.1952 & 23.8.1952, 16.83 on 8.5.1954 (held for 7 years) (10)
AAA: 1950 (2nd), 1951 (2nd), 1952, 1953, 1954 (5)

5 Tom Kirkwood 19

UK record: (from 7ft square) 13.76 on



Mike Winch: equal seventh

23.6.1906, 13.83 on 7.7.1906, 13.89 on 14.7.1906, 13.93 on 26.9.1906 (held for 23 years) (18 minus 2 = 16)
AAA: 1906, 1907, 1908 (2nd) (3)

6 Carl Myerscough 13

3rd 2002 Comm G (1)
UK record: 21.92 on 13.6.2003 (held for 4 years) (7)
AAA: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 (5)

7eq Martyn Lucking 10

1st 1962 Comm G (5), 2nd 1958(3)
AAA: 1962 (2nd), 1964 (2nd) (2)

7eq Mike Winch 10

2nd 1974 & 1982 Comm G (6)
AAA: 1981, 1982, 1983 (2nd), 1984 (4)

9 Tom Nicolson 8

UK record: (from 7ft square) 13.41 on 8.8.1903 (held for 2 years) (3)
AAA: 1903, 1904 (2nd), 1905 (2nd), 1909 (2nd), 1912 (3rd) (5)

10eq Jeff Teale 7

2nd 1970 Comm G (3)
AAA: 1967 (2nd), 1968, 1969, 1970 (2nd) (4)

10eq Billy Cole 7

1st 1986 Comm G (5)
AAA: 1985, 1986 (2)

10eq Simon Williams 7

1st 1990 Comm G (5)
AAA: 1988, 1989 (2)

10eq Matt Simson 7

1st 1994 Comm G (5)
AAA: 1993, 1996 (2)

Unranked: Dennis Horgan (IRL) (represented Great Britain & Ireland at Olympics, but was Irish rather than British)

2nd 1908 Olympics
World record: (from 7ft square) 8 records, from 13.79 on 30.6.1894 to 14.88 on 18.9.1904 (held for 11 years)
 "British Isles" record: as above (held for 55 years)
AAA: 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1904, 1905, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912

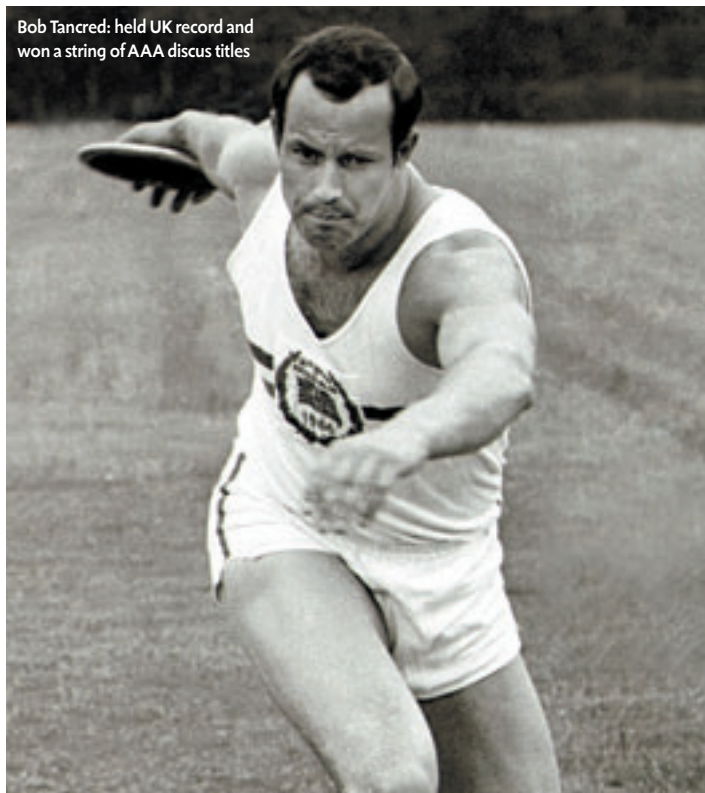
■ GEOFF CAPES - PROFILE

Born: Holbeach (Lincs) August 23 1949
 In his early days as an athlete, Geoff Capes ran a 4:48 mile and raced cross country but from 16, already nearly 6ft 6in (1.97m) tall, he began setting age records with the shot. In 1971 he improved from 17.73m to 19.48m, tantalisingly close to the UK record of 19.56m held by his hero, Arthur Rowe, and he smashed that record in 1972. Two years after that he became one of the world's elite. He won the Commonwealth title with 20.74m, captured the European indoor title with a European indoor record of 20.95m and later that year became the world's sixth 70ft performer with 21.37m. In 1976 he boosted the European indoor record to 20.98m and regained the European indoor title. Outdoors he raised the Commonwealth record to 21.55m, but in the Olympic final he admitted he "froze" and placed only sixth. His longest-ever throw of 21.68m came in 1980, when weighing 138kg (304lb), and he went to the Moscow Olympics ranked second, but a back injury held him down to fifth place. He was unbeaten by a Briton during the last 10 years of his career. Later he became even better known by twice winning the World's Strongest Man title.
Personal bests: SP - 21.68 (1980), DT - 58.34 (1973), JT - 60.56.
Annual progression: 1966 - 14.73 & 14.91i, 1967 - 16.10, 1968 - 16.80 & 17.26i, 1969 - 17.47, 1970 - 17.73, 1971 - 19.48, 1972 - 20.18; 1973 - 20.47, 1974 - 21.37, 1975 - 20.80, 1976 - 21.55, 1977 - 21.30, 1978 - 20.68, 1979 - 20.40 & 20.49i, 1980 - 21.68.

■ DISCUS

1 Bill Tancred 41
 2nd 1974 Comm G (3), 3rd 1970 (1)
UK record: 57.26 on 18.5.1968, 57.76 on 13.8.1969 (held for 1 year), 59.22 on 26.4.1972, 59.42 & 59.58 on 10.5.1972, 60.56 & 61.94 on 7.6.1972, 61.96 on 27.5.1973, 62.10 on 11.8.1973, 62.92 on 12.8.1973, 63.98 on 13.10.1973, 64.32 on 10.8.1974 (held for 25 years) (28)
AAA: 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974 (2nd), 1975 (2nd) (9)

2 Robert Weir 21
 1st 1998 Comm G (5), 3rd 1994 &



Bob Tancred: held UK record and won a string of AAA discus titles

2002 (2)
UK record: 64.60 on 26.7.1997 (3)
AAA: 1982 (2nd), 1983, 1984, 1993, 1995 (2nd), 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002 (11)

3 Mark Pharaoh 16
 4th 1956 Olympics (3)
 3rd 1954 Comm G (1)
UK record: 47.51 on 27.5.1953, 49.10 & 49.51 on 20.6.1953, 49.69 on 6.5.1954, 50.50 on 2.6.1954, 50.82 on 9.7.1955, 51.79 on 15.9.1955, 53.04 on 22.7.1956, 53.26 & 54.27 on 27.11.1956 (held for 4 years) (7)
AAA: 1952, 1953, 1954 (2nd), 1955, 1956 (5)

4 David Young 15
 2nd 1938 Comm G (3)
UK record: 44.06 on 5.7.1937, 46.83 on 25.6.1938 (held for 12 years) (15 minus 4 = 11)
AAA: 1938 (2nd) (1)

5 Mike Lindsay 14
 2nd 1962 Comm G (3)
UK record: 55.32 on 4.5.1960 (held for 3 years) (6)
AAA: 1957, 1959, 1960, 1963 (2nd), 1965 (2nd) (5)

6 Perriss Wilkins 13
UK record: 65.22 on 30.8.1997, 66.64 on 6.6.1998 (held for 10 years) (13)

7 Douglas Bell 9
 2nd 1934 Comm G (3)

UK record: 42.67 on 2.6.1934 (held for 1 year), 43.55 on 1.6.1936 (held for 1 year) (5)
AAA: 1934 (2nd) (1)

8 Gerry Carr 8
 3rd 1958 Comm G (1)
UK record: 54.54 on 21.5.1958, 55.23 on 23.4.1960 (held for 1 year), 57.00 on 17.7.1965 (held for 2 years) (6)
AAA: 1958 (3rd) (1)

9eq Sandy Smith 7
UK record: 40.14 on 7.8.1926 (held for 4 years) (7)

9eq Kenneth Pridie 7
UK record: 41.32 on 13.6.1931 (held for 2 years) (5)
AAA: 1931 (3rd), 1932 (3rd) (2)
Unranked: Walter Henderson (AAA championship event only from 1914)
UK record: 35.90 on 22.7.1911, 37.89 on 18.5.1912, 39.13 on 14.8.1912 (held for 15 years)

Unranked: Richard Slaney
 He bettered Tancred's ratified UK record of 64.32m on 10.8.1974 (and an unrated 64.94m on 21.7.1974) with a throw in the USA of 65.16m (1.7.1985), but this was not accepted as a record by the BAAB. That distance was not beaten by a British thrower until Wilkins' 65.22m on 30.8.1997. If ranked, Slaney would gain 15 points for that throw + 2 for AAA wins: 1979 (3rd), 1986.

■ BILL TANCRED - PROFILE
Born: Quetta (India; now Pakistan), August 6 1942

By far the finest single achievement in British discus history was Mark Pharaoh's fourth place in the Melbourne Olympics of 1956, setting a UK record of 54.27m in the process and missing the bronze medal by just 13cm, but he finished third in the rankings behind Tancred and Robert Weir. Tancred's long reign as British record-holder and profusion of AAA titles enabled him to top the list. Coached in his early years by his father Adrian, he began at the javelin and became proficient at all four throwing events before specialising in the discus. One younger brother, Peter, was also an international discus thrower, with a best of 62.36m in 1980, while another, Geoff, was a junior international hammer thrower. Tancred was officially succeeded as UK record-holder by Weir in 1997, but (see above) Richard Slaney unofficially broke Tancred's mark in 1984. Another complication is that the current UK record-holder, Perriss Wilkins, failed a drugs test and, although his throws of 65.22m and 66.64m in 1997/98 were ratified, he remains a controversial figure.

Personal bests: 100y - 10.3 (1965), SP - 19.43 (1974), DT - 64.94 (1974), HT - 57.10 (1968), JT - 64.10 (1976), Dec - 60.15 (1965).
Annual progression: 1961 - 42.48, 1962 - 42.21, 1963 - 47.88, 1964 - 52.08, 1965 - 51.82, 1966 - 55.73, 1967 - 54.96, 1968 - 57.26, 1969 - 57.76, 1970 - 56.68, 1971 - 58.00, 1972 - 61.94, 1973 - 63.98, 1974 - 64.94, 1975 - 62.42, 1976 - 62.14, 1977 - 60.08 (exhib), 1982 - 52.80.

■ A DETAILED profile of Capes is included in Mel Watman's book, All-Time Greats of British Athletics, available for £15 from the publishers, SportsBooks Ltd, PO Box 422, Cheltenham GL50 2YN; website: www.sportsbooks.ltd.uk

■ NEXT WEEK: hammer and javelin



Bob Weir: former UK record-holder is at No.2