**Sir Chris Hoy - born 23 March 1976**

A [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain) [racing driver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racing_driver) and former [track](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Track_cycling) cyclist who represented [Great Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain_at_the_Olympics) at the Olympics and World Championships and [Scotland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland_at_the_Commonwealth_Games) at the [Commonwealth Games](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_Games).

Hoy is an eleven-time [world champion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UCI_Track_Cycling_World_Championships) and six-time [Olympic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cycling_at_the_Summer_Olympics) champion. With a total of seven Olympic medals, six gold and one silver, Hoy is the most decorated Olympic cyclist of all time.

Hoy was inspired to cycle at age six by the 1982 film [*E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E.T._the_Extra-Terrestrial)*.*

Hoy joined his first cycling club, Dunedin C.C., in 1992 aged 16, and began concentrating on track cycling in 1994.

One of his first major successes was at the Manchester round of the World Cup Classics Series in 2007.

**Katie Piper born 12 October 1983**

An English [philanthropist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philanthropist), television presenter and former model from [Andover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andover,_Hampshire), [Hampshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampshire). Piper had hoped to have a full-time career in the media, but in March 2008 [sulphuric acid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulphuric_acid) was thrown in her face. The attack, which blinded Piper in one eye, was arranged by Piper's ex-boyfriend and carried out by an accomplice; both men were arrested and are serving life sentences in prison for their crimes

In 2009, Piper chose to give up her anonymity in order to increase awareness about burn victims.

She has been through over 100 medical operations since the acid attack. Katie uses her experience to educate others about burns and raise awareness of different treatments used in treating such problems. She also uses her experiences to challenge attitudes towards beauty and cosmetic surgery.

**Mo Farah born 23 March 1983**

A Somali-born British [long-distance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-distance_running) and [middle-distance runner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle-distance_running). He is the current Olympic, World and European champion in the [5000 metres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5000_metres) to [10,000 metres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10,000_metres)

Farah attended [Feltham Community College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feltham_Community_College) in London. His athletic talent was first identified by [physical education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_education) teacher Alan Watkinson, who later said of Farah: "When I first met him, he was struggling academically and suffering from the language barrier. He needed focus and I sort of took him under my wing. His passion was football but it was his turn of speed on the pitch that showed his real talent."

Farah's first major title was at [5000 metres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5000_metres) at the [European Athletics Junior Championship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001_European_Athletics_Junior_Championships) in 2001.

In May 2008, Farah ran 10,000 m events, claiming the fastest UK men's time for almost eight years. However, he was [knocked out](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletics_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_5000_metres#Heat_2) before the 5000 m final at the [2008 Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Olympics) in Beijing.

At the [London 2012 Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_2012_Olympics), on 4 August, Farah won the [10,000 m](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletics_at_the_2012_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_10,000_metres) gold in a time of 27:30.42. This was Great Britain's first Olympic gold medal in the 10,000 m, and came after two other gold medals for the country in the same athletics session.

**Professor Robert Winston born 15 July 1940**

A professor, medical doctor, scientist, television presenter and politician.

Winston's [polymath](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polymath) father died as a result of medical negligence when Winston was nine years old, which was partly the inspiration for his eventual career choice.

Winston graduated from [The London Hospital Medical College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barts_and_The_London,_Queen_Mary%27s_School_of_Medicine_and_Dentistry), [University of London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_London), in 1964 with a degree in medicine and surgery and achieved prominence as an expert in human fertility. For a brief time he gave up clinical medicine and worked as a theatre director, winning the National Directors' Award at the [Edinburgh Festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh_Festival) in 1969. On returning to academic medicine, he developed tubal microsurgery and various techniques in reproductive surgery, including sterilisation reversal.

Scientists only succeed through dedication and determination. Much of their work involves countless failures before they hit on something that works. The science of IVF is fraught with failure, very few people conceive successfully on their first attempt at IVF.

Winston was the presenter of many [BBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC) television series, including [*Superhuman*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Superhuman_(TV_series)&action=edit&redlink=1), *The Secret Life of Twins*, [*Child of Our Time*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_of_Our_Time), *Human Instinct*, and the [BAFTA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Academy_of_Film_and_Television_Arts) award-winner [*The Human Body*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Human_Body_(TV_series)).

Winston's documentary *Threads of Life* won the international science film prize in Paris in 2005. His BBC series [*Child Against All Odds*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Child_Against_All_Odds&action=edit&redlink=1) explored ethical questions raised by IVF treatment. In 2008, he presented *Super Doctors*, about decisions made every day in frontier medicine.

**Ellie Simmonds born 11 November 1994**

A [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) [Paralympian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paralympics) swimmer competing in [S6](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability_sport_classification#Swimming) events.

Simmonds, who has [achondroplasia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achondroplasia), became interested in swimming at the age of five.

She swam for Boldmere Swimming Club in [Sutton Coldfield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutton_Coldfield), under Head Coach Ashley Cox, but she and her mother moved to [Swansea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swansea) when Simmonds was 11 to take advantage of the city's world-class swimming pool.

At the age of 13, Simmonds was the youngest British athlete at the [2008 Summer Paralympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Summer_Paralympics) in [Beijing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing), competing in the 50m, 100m and 400m [freestyle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freestyle_swimming), 50m [butterfly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly_stroke), and 200m [Individual Medley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medley_swimming). She won gold medals in the 100m and 400m freestyle events.

On 1 September 2012, Simmonds repeated her gold performance to win the 400m freestyle at the [2012 Summer Paralympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_2012_Paralympic_Games) in London, in which she took five seconds off the World Record time. Two days later, on the evening of 3 September, she took Gold in the 200m Individual Medley, breaking the World Record that she had set in the qualifying round that morning.

**Jessica Ennis born 28 January 1986**

A [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_People) [track and field](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Track_and_field) athlete, specialising in [multi-eventing disciplines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heptathlon) and [100 metres hurdles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_metres_hurdles).

Neither of her parents were particularly athletic, but her father did some sprinting at school, whilst her mother favoured the high jump. They introduced her to athletics by taking her to a 'Start:Track' event at Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium during the 1996 school summer holidays. In later years she joked that her parents took her to the event, because "I think my mum and dad wanted me out of the house!"She won her first athletics prize there – a pair of trainers. She took to the sport immediately and joined the City of Sheffield Athletic Club the following year, aged eleven. In November 2000, aged fourteen, she won the Sheffield Federation for School Sports Whitham Award for the best performance by a Sheffield athlete at the National Schools Championships, where she won the high jump competition.

Ennis did her [GCSEs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCSEs) and stayed on in the sixth form to gain three [A-Levels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A-Level), before going on to study [psychology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology) at the [University of Sheffield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Sheffield) and graduating in 2007 with a [2:2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2:2).

After a twelve-month lay-off due to injury, Ennis returned to competition at the [World Combined Events Challenge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IAAF_World_Combined_Events_Challenge) in [Desenzano del Garda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desenzano_del_Garda) in May 2009, winning the event with a personal best score of 6,587 points, including an 800 metres personal best. Ennis's foot injury meant she had to change her take-off leg in the long jump from right to left. At the UK Championships in Birmingham in July Ennis won the high jump and 100 metres hurdles.

In August, 2012, Ennis won the [gold medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_medal) in the [heptathlon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletics_at_the_2012_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Women%27s_heptathlon) at the [London Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_2012_Olympic_Games) with a British and Commonwealth record score of 6,955 points

**J K Rowling born 31 July 1965**

A British novelist best known as the author of the [*Harry Potter*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter) fantasy series.

Born in [Yate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yate), Gloucestershire, Rowling was working as a researcher and bilingual secretary for [Amnesty International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International) when she conceived the idea for the *Harry Potter* series on a delayed train from Manchester to London in 1990. The seven-year period that followed saw the death of her mother, divorce from her first husband and relative poverty until Rowling finished the first novel in the series, [*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Philosopher%27s_Stone) in 1997.

Rowling used many of her life experiences to shape the characters in her books, the death of her mother informed the way she wrote about Harry’s sense of loss for his dead parents, a period of clinical depression inspired the soul sucking Dementors and Rowling also said that she based the character of [Hermione Granger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermione_Granger) on herself when she was eleven.

Rowling has led a "[rags to riches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rags_to_riches)" life story, in which she progressed from living on state benefits to multi-millionaire status within five years.

In October 2010, Rowling was named the "Most Influential Woman in Britain" by leading magazine editors. She has supported charities including [Comic Relief](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comic_Relief_(charity)), [One Parent Families](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Parent_Families), [Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiple_Sclerosis_Society_of_Great_Britain) and [Lumos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lumos_(charity)) (formerly the Children's High Level Group).

Primary information source – www.wikipedia.org