

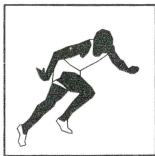
Track and Field



Bruce Tulloh



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Come on Barefoot Boy!

One of the most unlikely champions ever to win a gold medal for Britain, Bruce Tulloh was an example of how determination and intelligent application can bring out the best in a runner. With arms like pipstems, he appeared to be all legs, but his head was in fact his main asset. Entirely self-coached, he was 20 before he won a track race of any importance, the Hong Kong, 5,000 metres title. By 1958 he was able to win a county mile championship and the following year the AAA 3 miles title for the first time in 13 min 31.2 sec running as usual barefoot.

It was in 1962 that Tulloh really caught fire. In New Zealand at the beginning of the year he broke the UK 2 miles record with 8 min 34.0 sec and only three days later ran 3 min 59.3 sec for the mile behind world record holder Peter Snell. Back in London for the European summer season he won the AAA 3 miles again in the much improved time of 13 min 16.0 sec, defeating Canada's Bruce Kidd. He had in the meantime increased his range; a few weeks earlier at the Whitsun Games he had produced what was then the fastest distance double in history, winning the 3 miles at White City on Saturday in 13 min 20.2 sec and the

6 miles on Monday in 27 min 57.4 sec. In Belgrade for the European Championships, Tulloh made good use of the knowledge that Poland's Kazimierz Zimny, who had beaten him narrowly once that year, had a faster finish. Thus instead of leaving his dash to the last half lap, Tulloh broke away in the penultimate lap, building up a big lead which proved impossible for the opposition to pull back. He covered the last 800 m in 1 min 59.8 sec, winning the gold medal by nearly 10 m.

Bruce was past his peak for the Commonwealth Games at Perth later that year, finishing fourth in the 3 miles. He regained his AAA 3 miles title in 1963 and went on to represent Britain for several years, breaking the European record for 6 miles in 1966. Then, to the astonishment of his fans, he took to road running and in 1969 ran the 2,876 miles across the United States, from Los Angeles to New York in 65 days, some 8 ½ days faster than the previous record.

BRUCE TULLOH

Born Sept. 29, 1935, in Datchet, England

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1962 ECH: gold medal, 5,000 metres in 14 min 00.6 sec, Belgrade

European record: 6 miles in 27 min 23.8 sec, 1966

Barefoot Tulloh (4) just fails to get up on the tape