



BIG PLAYERS

in Milton Keynes: Sports, Arts & Media

Dorothy Scouler



'Olympic Gold Medal won by Deanshanger Girl'

'Dorothy Scouler, at the age of 16, ran for Britain in the Women's Olympics in Sweden in 1926.'

'Her mother died in childbirth and Dorothy was brought up by her Grandfather, William Panter of Bridge Farm Deanshanger.'

'She trained at Wolverton Works where her potential was spotted. She joined an athletics club in London and trained at White City. It was here that she was spotted as an Olympic hopeful. She impressed the scouts by the fact that she ran in navy bloomers and plimsolls whereas her competitors wore running shorts and spiked shoes. Her selection was also influenced by the fact that whilst her competitors started on blocks, from a squat position, Dorothy went from a standing start and still easily won.'

'When she was asked to go to Sweden, her Grandfather insisted that she could only go if her aunt went as a chaperone, as she was only 16 years of age. Initially, the authorities said that the aunt would have to pay her own way. However, when her grandfather refused to let her go as they could not pay the aunt's fare, the authorities relented and the aunt went as well (and was paid for). Dorothy Scouler won a gold medal.'