

Marshall Milton Keynes Athletic Club (MMKAC)

MMKAC is one of the oldest athletic clubs in the world having started life as Wolverton Amateur Athletic Club in 1885. It changed its name to Milton Keynes AC in 1976 and to Marshall Milton Keynes AC in 2005. The club moved from Wolverton to Stantonbury in 1989 when the six-lane track was opened at the Campus. In 1992, when the Campus took ownership of the track, the club was asked to manage it out of school hours and in 1998 it also took over all grounds maintenance.

In 2003, with lottery funding, a clubhouse was built at the side of the track. In 2007, with the help of several grants, the club extended the track to eight lanes. The club also managed to acquire large amounts of the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games track surface, which it has used to provide more training space alongside the home straight. More recently, with help from a National Hockey Foundation grant, it has upgraded the floodlights to LED lighting, refurbished the two hammer cages and replaced the wooden terrace in front of the clubhouse.

The club has ambitions to build a multi-sport indoor facility close to the track as a base for winter training and competition, to build a stand alongside the track so that the club can host even bigger events, and to resurface the stadium when it next becomes necessary in about five years' time. The cost of this project is likely to be in the region of £1.5 - £2m.

The club has had many individual successes over the years. In 2008, Craig Pickering and Greg Rutherford, who started at the club as 11-year-olds, were selected to represent Great Britain at the Beijing Olympics, with Craig reaching the semi finals of the 100m and the final of the 4x100m relay. Four years later, at the London Olympic Games, Mervyn Luckwell (Javelin) and Greg Rutherford (Long Jump) were selected for the GB Team, with Greg winning the Gold Medal on Super Saturday. Greg would go on to win gold medals at the World Championships, European Championships and Commonwealth Games, one of only five GB athletes to have done so. He also won a bronze medal at the Rio Olympics in 2016. He is now trying to add to his Olympic medal haul by representing GB in the Bobsleigh at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The club has teams on the track in the National Athletics League (for the top 40 clubs in the UK), the Youth Development League and the Eastern Masters League. The club's U15 squad qualified for the National Finals (top eight teams in the UK) in 2018 and 2019, while the Master's Team are invariably the overall winners of their League Final. Away from the track, the club has won the overall title in the Chiltern Cross Country League 17 times in the last 23 years, with over 100 MMK runners taking part in each of the five races over the winter months.

The club organises several high-profile events on the track each year, including the England Athletics 5000m Championships, the South of England Road Relays, the biggest middle-distance event for young athletes trying to qualify for the English Schools Championships and the Bucks Schools Championships. It also holds league meetings and open meetings, designed to enable all members to take part in competition. The Club was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services in 2020 in recognition of its outstanding achievements over many years.

The club has several outstanding coaches including two who have won the UKA Coach of the Year Award in the last 20 years. The club can offer coaching in all disciplines. At this year's English Schools Championships, MMK athletes representing Bucks Schools won two gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The Club currently has a membership of over 600, with around 50% under 18. The main training nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays, but there are groups training most days of the week.

The club has a very active website which can be accessed at <http://www.mkac.org.uk/> from which more information about the club can be found.