



THE JOHN C BARD TROPHY



Presented to the Hammer Circle by Lt. John Bard of the U.S. Army, as a *memento* of his active participation in hammer competitions in the U.K. during his graduate years at Oxford University. He achieved his PB of 181 feet in 1956. He returned to the United States in that same year and he presented the trophy to the Hammer Circle in 1957. It took until 1958 to be manufactured in London. It took the form of a 3 inch diameter medallion on a plinth. On one side of the medallion is a relief impression of a hammer thrower in action, and on the reverse is a reproduction of the Hammer Circle badge.

The trophy was intended to be awarded annually to the 'most outstanding senior world hammer thrower'. Other conditions were that it's award shall be confined to active or honorary members of the Hammer Circle who normally reside outside the U.K., and that it only be awarded once to the same athlete, except in most exceptional circumstances, and that the qualification 'outstanding' does not necessarily apply to the athlete with the longest throw, but that it should be interpreted in its broadest sense. Each winner of the award will be presented with a suitably inscribed replica.



The first winner, in 1959, was Hal Connelly of the U.S.A. The then World Record holder and a most worthy recipient. In a letter to Bill Stringer he said 'Let me take this opportunity to thank the Hammer Circle for the very nice trophy I recently received. It shall always be one of my most cherished possessions'. The 2nd winner in 1960 was Vasiliy Rudenkov of the U.S.S.R. who won the gold medal so convincingly in Rome. Making him an honorary member and presenting him with the replica proved much more difficult. Despite several representations to the Russian Embassy in London, it was not until September of 1961, when visiting London with the Russian team that the trophy was presented, along with a Hammer Circle tie and badge.

The trophy was not awarded in 1961 as no thrower was considered to have qualified as outstanding. After a few years it was realised that it was impossible to present this trophy. John Bard then agreed that it should go to the **outstanding U.K. Veteran Thrower**. This trophy tends to go to that person who has made a significant personal achievement as a Veteran.

WINNERS

1959	Hal Connolly USA	1991	David Bayes
1960	Vasiliy Rudenkov USSR	1992	Paul Dickenson
1961	Not Awarded	1993	Mrs Pat McNab
1962	Harold Connolly USA 231' 10"	1994	Paul Dickenson
1963	Gyula Zsivotsky HUN	1995	Chris Melliush
1964	Romuald Klim USSR 228' 9½"	1996	Malcolm Fenton
1965	Gyula Zsivotsky HUN 241' 10"	1997	Jenny Cunnane
1966	R Clim (USSR)	1998	Chris Black
1967	D Burke 235' 11"	1999	Malcolm Fenton
1968	A H Payne 223' (1968 Olympics)	2000	Chris Black
1969	H Sugawara	2001	Chris Black
1970	Anatoliy Bondarchuk 75.48m	2002	Chris Black
1971	Uwe Beyer	2003	Chris Black
1972	Anatoliy Bondarchuk	2004	Chris Melliush
1973	Not Awarded	2005	William Gentleman
1974	Not Awarded	2006	Rob Earle
1975	Not Awarded	2007	Chris Black
1976	Eric Johnston	2008	Malcolm Fenton
1977	Kevin Madden	2009	Jack Kee
1978	Niall McDonald	2010	William Gentleman
1979	Laurie Hall	2011	Rob Earle
1980	Niall McDonald	2012	Rob Earle
1981	David Bayes	2013	Janet Smith
1982	Jack Kee	2014	Barry Hawksworth
1983	David Bayes	2015	Warwick Dixon
1984	David Bayes	2016	William Gentleman
1985	David Bayes	2017	Not Awarded
1986	Jack Kee	2018	Rob Earle
1987	Chris Melliush	2019	Gareth Cook
1988	Peter Aston	2020	Not Awarded
1989	Peter Aston	2021	Warwick Dixon
1990	Mrs Pat McNab	2022	Lucy Marshall