

Louise Miller

Louise Miller was born in 1960, in Saffron Walden. She competed for Great Britain in High Jump at the 1980 Summer Olympics, finishing in 11th place (1.85 m) in the overall-rankings. She set her PB of 1.94m in 1980.



Louise first won the county High Jump championship in 1978, and her final Essex title in 1985 (as Louise Gittens). In between these years she set a county record of 1.89 metres which still stands, as nobody has been close to this since.

Her highlight came in 1980 when in an invitation meeting in Naples, Louise cleared a height of 1.94 metres which at that time was a new UK record. Louise therefore has the distinction of being the only Chelmsford member to have set a NATIONAL RECORD.

At one point she was ranked as high as 6th in the world.

Interviewed by the Saffron Walden Reporter in 2012, she remarked, "It is difficult to describe what it meant to represent my country at the Olympic Games. It was a once-in-a-lifetime journey and an awesome experience.

"Everyone in the town was very supportive and it was quite exciting.

"Saffron Walden is bigger now than it was back then but a lot of people knew my family anyway and they all got behind me."

Louise retired from athletics in 1986. Her career was hampered by three major knee surgeries and though she made a comeback in 1985 after four years on the treatment table, her appearance in Moscow was her first and last on the global stage.

She now lives in Southampton, and is a faculty head of further education school Eastleigh College.

Although she worked as a coach for Great Britain at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and Melbourne, Louise now focuses on a different sport altogether – her three children are all keen hockey players.