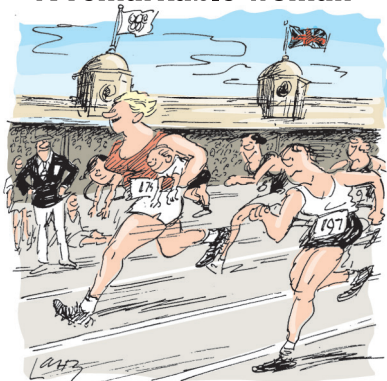


A remarkable woman



The 1948 Olympics in London were an austerity affair staged after a 12-year break due to World War II

Teams brought their own food because of rationing and slept in barracks and colleges. Dutch sprinter **Fanny Blankers Koen**, a world record holder before the war, had since married her coach and had two children but, aged 30, astonished everyone by winning four gold medals. She thought she had lost the 80m hurdles when the band struck up the British anthem but that was only to signal the arrival of the royal family