

09 SEP 2018

# UIPM 2018 PENTATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GERMANY WIN MIXED RELAY ON #PENTATHLONDAY



They may describe themselves as the 'B team' of Modern Pentathlon in **Germany** but **Rebecca Langrehr** and **Fabian Liebig** definitely performed their 'A game' as they won gold in the Mixed Relay at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Championships.



It was an unforgettable occasion in Mexico City

as athletes from all competing nations gathered in the morning for an official opening ceremony that doubled as a curtain-raiser for the 1st Pierre de Coubertin #PentathlonDay.

It was fitting that this celebration of the legacy of Coubertin, founder of Modern Pentathlon, should be aligned to the Mixed Relay, which UIPM is working hard to add to the Olympic Games sporting programme for Paris 2024.

The Mixed Relay format is going from strength to strength, as illustrated by today's expert participants.

It is true that there have higher-ranked athletes in the **Germany** team such as Annika Schleu and Patrick Dogue, but **Liebig** and **Langrehr** (GER) blew away the competition provided by 15 rival nations on day three of the championships, building a big lead in Fencing and defending it with conviction.

In fact it was the continuation of a new tradition: **Germany** won gold in the same event 12 months ago with another two of their less celebrated athletes, Ronja Steinborn and Alexander Nobis, demonstrating their remarkable strength in depth in the male and female ranks.

**Michelle Gulyas** and **Gergo Bruckmann** of **Hungary** performed strongly to win a solid silver, without ever looking like catching the leaders.

**Alexandre Henrard** doubled his medal tally for the championships after teaming up with **Emma Riff** to win bronze for **France**, holding off a stiff challenge from **Kazakhstan** (**Elena Potapenko** / **Pavel Ilyashenko**).

Fifth place went to **Czech Republic** (**Eliska Pribylova** / **Ondrej Polivka**) while **China** (**Zhang Mingyu** / **Li Shuhuan**) took 6th and there was delight for the home crowd as **Mexico** (**Melissa Mireles** / **Sergio Flores**) came back strongly to finish 8th.

**Liebig** (GER) said: "Normally my shooting is not the best, I always struggle and make mistakes, but today I managed to cope with the pressure and it was great.

"We had such a good Fencing and that was the basis of everything. The whole day was perfect and nobody would have expected this because we are the 'B team', the underdogs, but we got it and it's awesome."



**Langrehr** (GER) added: “Before the run I just

concentrated and tried to think about training because if I thought it was the competition, I wouldn’t be so calm, I would have freaked out.”

After securing Hungary’s first medal of the week, **Gulyas** (HUN) said: “Our whole day was amazing and we were really stable in every discipline of the Pentathlon.

“We can’t describe how happy we are; it’s an amazing thing to be second in a World Championship.”

**Bruckmann** (HUN) added: “Germany was really far ahead; I needed to be a new man if I was going to catch them! I was a bit scared of France and my first shoot was really bad, but after that I was able to concentrate and the second shoot was amazing.”

A day after winning gold alongside Valentin Belaud in the Men’s Relay, **Henrard** (FRA) paid tribute to his 17-year-old partner **Riff** (FRA), another athlete winning her first senior medal.

**Henrard** (FRA) said: “It was really difficult because of the altitude, and Emma was astonished by how hard it was to run in Mexico.

“I really want to congratulate Emma and thank her. She is really young and she did a wonderful job today. I was doing the Men’s Relay yesterday so it was more complicated for me but I really want to congratulate her, because it’s thanks to her that we are third.”

By constructing a Pentathlon Stadium, Mexico City has become the first host city to provide the all-in-one venue that will experience its Olympic debut in Tokyo in 2020.

The Pentathlon Stadium enables athletes to perform all five disciplines in one venue in the space of five hours, providing a better competition experience also for spectators, media, sponsors and VIPs. Today they were all treated to a high-quality spectacle throughout.



**Swimming**



**France** (Riff / Henrard) got the competition off to a strong start with their time of 1:57.37, although **Russia** (Anna Buriak / Oleg Naumov) and **Hungary** (Gulyas/Bruckmann) were only a few tenths of a second slower.

## Fencing



It was on the piste that **Germany**

(Langrehr/Liebig) really did the most damage to their opponents' medal ambitions, scoring a very impressive 25V/5D in the Ranking Round and adding two points in the Bonus Round.

The next-best performers with epee in hand were Hungary (Gulyas/Bruckmann), who scored 21V/9D, while **United States** (Naomi Ross / Seamus Millett) managed 18V/12D. **China** (Zhang/Li) added four bonus points and **Kazakhstan** (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) boosted their score by three.

## Riding



Two teams managed a perfect score in the equestrian

arena, and there was joy for the home crowd as **Mexico** (Mireles/Flores) went round clear along with **Czech Republic** (Pribylova/Polivka).

**Germany** (Langrehr/Liebig) and **France** (Riff / Henrard) remained on course for the podium with solid scores of 293.

## Laser Run



The climax of the competition was, to a point,

pre-determined by performances in the previous three disciplines. **Germany** (Langrehr/Liebig) had no problems protecting their 31sec lead over **Hungary** (Gulyas/Bruckmann), who in turn were comfortable with a 35sec advantage over the chasing pack.

The battle for bronze was the most intense, with **Kazakhstan** (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) repeatedly asking questions of **France** (Riff/Henrard), only to find that their rivals' rapid running more than compensated for their sometimes wayward shooting.

**France** (Riff/Henrard) posted the fastest Laser Run time of 11:41.70, a few seconds quicker than **China** (Zhang/Li) and **Kazakhstan** (Potapenko/Ilyashenko).

## #PentathlonDay

A special opening ceremony held to mark the 1st Pierre de Coubertin #PentathlonDay was attended by UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, Members of the Executive Board, officials from the local organising committee and friends of the pentathlon family.



Among the VIP guests were two members of the

Pierre de Coubertin Commission, Dr Lilia Victoria Sanchez and Dr Mario Eduardo Martinez, who joined Dr Schormann to present Pierre de Coubertin Medals to two of the people responsible for turning the dream of a Pentathlon Stadium into a reality this week in Mexico City.

The medals were presented to Horacio de la Vega, two-time Olympic pentathlete, President of the Local Organising Committee and Sports Director for the Mexico City Mayor's office, and Juan Manzo, President of the Mexican Modern Pentathlon Federation and Vice-President of UIPM.

Guests at the ceremony watched short films demonstrating how members of the pentathlon community had played a part in promoting this special occasion on social media under the hashtag campaigns #High5, #PentathlonDay and #HappyPentathlonDay.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "Today we celebrated, for the first time in history, the Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day and we awarded Horacio de la Vega and Juan Manzo with the Pierre de Coubertin Medal.

"Then we had a great Mixed Relay competition, and it was a showcase for the world not only inside our society but also for the international Olympic sport society, who can see what the Mixed Relay means to Modern Pentathlon.

"The result was great in that leading countries in our movement like Germany, Hungary and France were on the podium but also that countries like Kazakhstan, China and Mexico in the top eight. We also had developing countries like Bolivia and Venezuela competing today.

"This Mixed Relay, in the wonderful Pentathlon Stadium provided by our hosts here in Mexico, has given us a lot of arguments to present to the International Olympic Committee with regard to the 2024 Olympic Games.

"The Programme Commission of the IOC can see what we are delivering with a really strong multi-sport and combined gender team competition. You cannot do more than what was presented today.

"The Pentathlon Stadium has been a wonderful success and I have been listening to some of the athletes talking about it, and I can give a guarantee that this is the stadium format we will use until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and afterwards."

Juan Manzo added: "Everybody is enjoying the competition, everything from the weather, the facilities, the horses, the pool, we have no complaints!

"We are very proud to have the first Pentathlon Stadium here. In Modern Pentathlon we were proud to make the competition in one day, we were proud when women started to compete in the World Championships ... we have a tradition of innovation in our sport.

"We hope that this will be the future of Modern Pentathlon. I've never seen so many cameras in a Modern Pentathlon event and it's great to have so many countries televising our sport.

"We hope to have some Mexican athletes in the top 15 of the individual events. Today was a very good result for our young athletes who will go to the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in October. It's a very good day for them."

The UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Championships run until September 13 and the best athletes in the world will compete on September 10 (women) and 11 (men) to qualify for the individual finals on September 12 (women) and September 13 (men).

Up-to-date results will be available at the UIPM website throughout the championships and the Laser Run during the individual finals will be available to watch live on TV in many different countries (channel details here). Don't forget to tune in to UIPM's social media activity on Facebook , Twitter and Instagram.

1	LANGREHR Rebecca LIEBIG Fabian	GER	1452
2	GULYAS Michelle BRUCKMANN Gergo	HUN	1427
3	RIFF Emma HENRARD Alexandre	FRA	1416
4	POTAPENKO Elena ILYASHENKO Pavel	KAZ	1411
5	PRIBYLOVA Eliska POLIVKA Ondrej	CZE	1402
6	ZHANG Mingyu LI Shuhuan	CHN	1399
7	BURIAK Anna NAUMOV Oleg	RUS	1387
8	MIRELES Melissa FLORES Sergio	MEX	1380
9	KHALDOBA Tatsiana TSIKHANAU Pavel	BLR	1372
10	BATRAK Zinayida KIRPULYANSKY Dmytro	UKR	1368
11	BRAND Isabel FERNANDEZ Charles	GUA	1355
12	CHOI Juhye SEO Changwan	KOR	1341
13	ROSS Naomi MILLETT Seamus	USA	1311
14	ARAKI Haruka SEKIGUCHI Takeshi	JPN	1297
15	ARIAS Ana Leidys DOMINGUEZ Gabriel	DOM	1129
16	CABRERA Fatima TININI Jesus	BOL	382