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World Pentathlon Newsletter

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PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES: NEW FORMAT TEST



Running in a full bodysuit, Carlos Puerta Hernandez (ESP) participates in the final test event of the new Modern Pentathlon format in Budapest (HUN)



Paris 2024 Olympic Games update



Coming after Riding, the Fencing Bonus Round has a new place in the running order of Modern Pentathlon (see graphic on Page 3)

Winners of test event in Budapest (HUN) endorse new-look Modern Pentathlon

The winners of the final Paris 2024 Olympic Modern Pentathlon test event have strongly endorsed the innovative new format.

The new-look Modern Pentathlon was tested for the third time in Budapest (HUN) over the past four days, enabling athletes from 10 nations to experience the 90-minute showpiece designed to change the face of the sport for athletes and audiences.

The future vision for Modern Pentathlon, a core Olympic sport since it was created especially for the Games by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and introduced in Stockholm in 1912, sees

pentathletes compete in a faster, more dynamic sequence with an elimination system adding more pressure.

The new finals format begins with Riding, followed by the Fencing Bonus Round and Swimming, before closing with the popular Laser Run – with 5-15 minutes’ break in between each discipline.

The format is designed to create a more compelling spectacle for TV and online viewers - and for on-site audiences like the Olympic Games spectators who will become the first to see all five Modern Pentathlon disciplines in the space of 90 minutes at Paris 2024 (see illustrated timings).

Unlike the previous test events in Budapest (HUN) and Cairo (EGY) in

2020, different permutations of the format were rehearsed at the University of Public Service in recent days, with 12 athletes competing in the women’s final on April 24 and 18 athletes taking part in the men’s final on April 25.

ATHLETES’ REACTION

Asked for his impressions of the new format after winning the Men’s Final, UIPM Pentathlon World Cup and Pentathlon World Championships medallist Pierre Dejardin of France, said: “It goes very fast, it’s quite hard. The transition between swimming and Laser Run goes very, very fast.

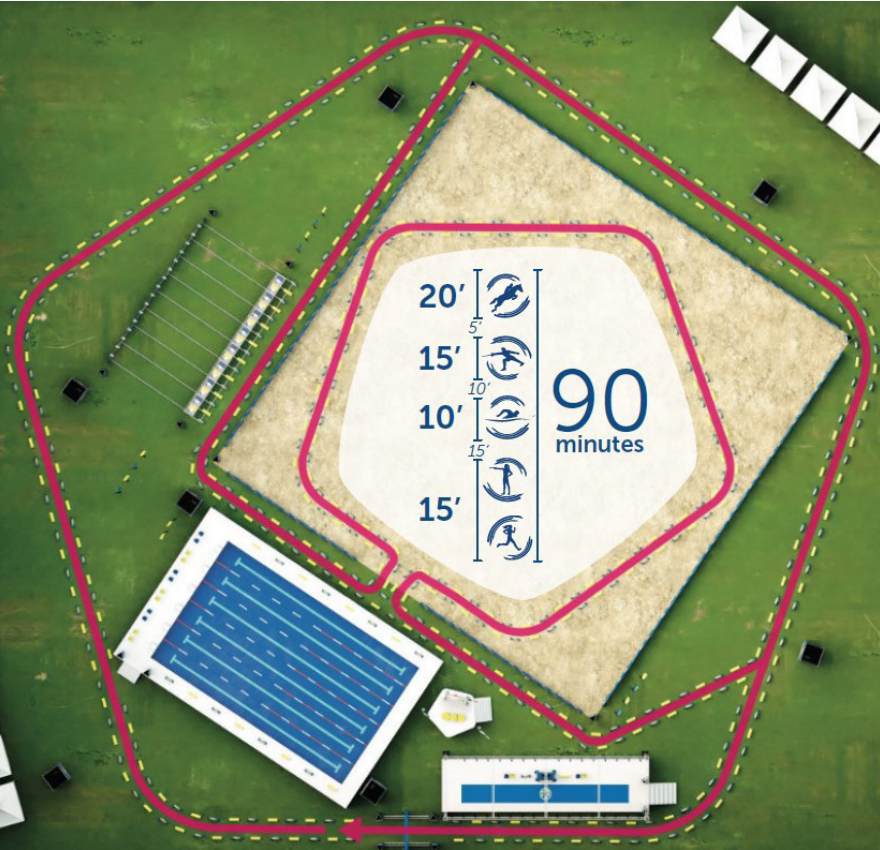
“Shooting after swimming is really not easy but it brings a little something extra because it’s harder, so you have to focus much more on the shooting than before. We start almost without

warming up so we need to manage everything well. But it’s interesting! Mentally, it’s one and a half hours of intense pressure.”

Asked if viewers might find the new Modern Pentathlon easier to follow and understand, Dejardin (FRA) added: “Yes, definitely, because you can follow the whole pentathlon from beginning to end in only 90 minutes.

“Honestly, I am happily surprised that everything was running smoothly. Yes, it goes fast and it’s harder but it’s part of the change and we need this change so it’s cool.

“I was a little scared because I didn’t know how it was going to all work out. But in the end it doesn’t change that much for us, even the 5 x 600m, and it’s even better because it gives us an extra lap of running. It’s all about managing your race, but in the end it’s very interesting.”



Action from the Riding during the Women’s Final of the test event in Budapest (HUN)

Alice Rinaudo of Italy also spoke with enthusiasm after demonstrating her versatility on the way to victory in the Women's Final.

Asked about the new sequence of Riding-Fencing-Swimming-Laser Run, the 2018 Under 19 world champion said: "I enjoyed the competition and I like this new format! I have to better manage the time but it can work really well and I like this sequence."

Asked if she felt the new format would be more understandable and easier for audiences to follow, Rinaudo (ITA) said: "Absolutely yes! Better to follow and understand all the disciplines. One thing I would change is to have more time between Swimming and Laser Run... just five minutes more would be enough."

"If this can help to have more visibility or more spectators, obviously it's important to change the format for Paris 2024."

Mihaly Koleszar of Hungary, who finished 3rd in the Men's Final, added: "We have to compete in five different disciplines in one day, competing three days in a row, so it's very hard to concentrate from the very first touch to the last metres in running."

"I like both formats of Pentathlon and I could not decide which one I like most, but maybe this one because it's shorter and it needs much more technique."

"I actually felt really good, especially on the second day. I cannot say why but I felt really fresh and concentrated and I knew that if I did the disciplines exactly how I could, I would be able to stand on the podium and I'm very happy that it happened."

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

The final test event in Budapest (HUN) will now be fully evaluated and discussed at the next meeting of the New Pentathlon Task Force ahead of the implementation of the new format in UIPM competitions starting in 2022.



Action from the Swimming and Laser Run disciplines that formed part of the test event



Discussions are ongoing with the Paris 2024 Organising Committee and Olympic broadcasting partners about the incorporation of the new Modern Pentathlon format, which has met with positive feedback from the IOC Executive Board, into the Olympic Games schedule.

UIPM has stressed the need for athletes to have sufficient rest between semi-finals and finals to maximise the potential of the new format to amplify and improve the overall Olympic Games viewer and spectator experience.

UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang said: "This is an exciting moment not only for our core Olympic sport but for the wider Olympic Games product. Our test events have proved that the new Modern Pentathlon format is not just a dream but a reality."

"We can all look forward with confidence to the implementation of the format in 2022 and to the very

special moment when spectators at the Olympic Games will see all five disciplines of the Modern Pentathlon in a 90-minute showpiece.

"There are some challenges in incorporating the format to be compatible with the schedule put forward by Paris 2024, but we are certain that with flexibility on all sides we can deliver the Olympic Modern Pentathlon in this new format in such a way that adds value for all stakeholders."

UIPM PRESIDENT'S REACTION

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "The third test event for the future Modern Pentathlon format has been tested in Budapest and it was a big success for the women and men's parts – we tested in different ways so that we have much more experience now."

"It's important to have feedback from the athletes, coaches and trainers. We will study these documents and then

we have to make some changes, or not – this is what we will find out in the next days. But I would like to underline that all the feedback so far from athletes, coaches and trainers from the 10 nations competing here have been nearly 100 per cent positive.

"It was much more than we thought we could achieve. The athletes who competed here can in future be our ambassadors to all the other nations and athletes when they come together in other competitions in the near future."

"Thanks again to the organising committee for the facilities they have presented to us and how they have managed the health and safety protocols based on COVID-19."

"We can say in summary: it was a success, it was a very important step and now we can communicate what we have achieved here. This was the right step in the preparations for the Olympic Games Paris 2024."



Alice Rinaudo (ITA) and Pierre Dejardin (FRA) celebrate winning the Women's and Men's Finals of the test event in Budapest (HUN)

ROAD TO TOKYO

Olympic qualification news

UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final: qualified athletes

UIPM has revealed the 72 athletes who have earned the right to compete in the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

The 36 female and 36 male pentathletes qualified for the showpiece competition, which will take place in Szekesfehervar (HUN) from May 13-16, according to their finishing places in the three Pentathlon World Cups that took place in 2021 and the one that took place in 2020, before the suspension of all UIPM activity due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

The UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final represents the penultimate opportunity for athletes to earn points towards the UIPM Olympic World Rankings, which will determine the remaining qualifiers for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The final chance to qualify will come at the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Cairo (EGY) in June, where there will also be up to three automatic quota places available for Tokyo 2020 along with the ranking points.

Three countries – Germany, Great Britain and Hungary – achieved a maximum six selections for the Pentathlon World Cup Final, while Belarus, Lithuania and Russia will field the maximum quota of three women and China, France and Mexico will each be represented by three men.

The highest-ranked athletes in the women's list were Joanna Muir (GBR),



Joanna Muir (GBR) topped the women's UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup rankings and qualified in 1st place for the Pentathlon World Cup Final in Szekesfehervar (HUN)

Marie Oteiza (FRA) and Francesca Summers (GBR), while the top-ranked men were Woongtae Jun (KOR), Ilya Palazkov (BLR) and Adam Marosi (HUN).

The reigning world champions, Volha Silkina (BLR) and Valentin Belaud (FRA), were automatic qualifiers.

The withdrawal of Joseph Choong (GBR), Jun (KOR) and Martin Vlach of Czech Republic from the men's event led to the inclusion of reserves Ondrej

Svechota (CZE), Pierre Dejardin (FRA) and Jiahao Han (CHN), with Denys Pavlyuk of Ukraine first reserve.

The three women reserves are Mariana Arceo (MEX), Sophia Hernandez of Guatemala and Elena Micheli of Italy.

As of April 29, 15 nations had confirmed participation in the Mixed Relay: Belarus, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Russia and Switzerland.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "We are now entering the high point of the 2021 season where we will have three competitions of the highest prestige – the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final, the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 taking place in 2021.

"I congratulate all 72 athletes who have earned the right to compete in Pentathlon World Cup Final in Szekesfehervar. Not only have they performed well, they have overcome very difficult situations linked to the pandemic with limited opportunities to train and competing.

"I also congratulate all coaches, trainers and support staff who have helped these athletes to achieve something very special. We are very excited to see them compete for the title of Pentathlon World Cup Final champion in Hungary, where we will have finals for women and men and a Mixed Relay, which is so important to the future of our movement."

UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final competitors (as of 29 April)

Women: 1 J Muir (GBR), 2 M Oteiza (FRA), 3 F Summers (GBR), 4 M Gulyas (HUN), 5 A Prokopenko (BLR), 6 G Gubaydullina (RUS), 7 U Batashova (RUS), 8 A Maliszewska (POL), 9 I Ozyuksel (TUR), 10 G Venckauskaite (LTU), 11 K French (GBR), 12 Mayan Oliver (MEX), 13 T Alekszejev (HUN), 14 S Abdelmaksoud (EGY), 15 A Sotero (ITA), 16 E Potapenko (KAZ), 17 E Clouvel (FRA), 18 A Schleu (GER), 19 J Kohlmann (GER), 20 I Prasiantsova (BLR), 21 S Brassil (IRL), 22 B Guzi (HUN), 23 R Shimazu (JPN), 24 R Langrehr (GER), 25 X Zhang (CHN), 26 T Vega (MEX), 27 A Jurt (SUI), 28 N Coyle (IRL), 29 I Serapinaite (LTU), 30 L Hereida (ESP), 31 Sunwoo Kim (KOR), 32 A Ibatullina (RUS), 33 L Asadauskaite (LTU), 34 A Kandil (EGY), 35 L Salminen (FIN), 36 V Silkina (BLR).

Men: 1 I Palazkov (BLR), 2 A Marosi (HUN), 3 P Dogue (GER), 4 M Dogue (GER), 5 F Liebig (GER), 6 R Kasza (HUN), 7 S Curry (GBR), 8 V Prades (FRA), 9 B Kardos (HUN), 10 T Toolis (GBR), 11 P Tymoshchenko (UKR), 12 S Luo (CHN), 13 A Hamed (EGY), 14 J Kinderis (LTU), 15 C Fernandez (GUA), 16 A Elgendy (EGY), 17 E Hamad (EGY), 18 J Kuf (CZE), 19 A Sandoval (MEX), 20 A Lanigan-O'Keeffe (IRL), 21 J Jung (KOR), 22 A Lifanov (RUS), 23 V Belaud (FRA), 24 D Carrillo (MEX), 25 M Padilla (MEX), 26 P Svecovs (LAT), 27 C Seo (KOR), 28 S Stasiak (POL), 29 A Heredia Vives (ESP), 30 S Li (CHN), 31 Y Radziuk (BLR), 32 L Gutkowski (POL), 33 A Dallenbach (SUI), 34 O Svechota (CZE), 35 P Dejardin (FRA), 36 J Han (CHN).

ROAD TO TOKYO: OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

Women	Men
Haydy Morsy (EGY)	Sherif Nazeir (EGY)
Laura Asadauskaite (LTU)	Joseph Choong (GBR)
Mariana Arceo (MEX)	Charles Fernandez (GUA)
Samantha Schultz (USA)	Esteban Bustos (CHI)
Leidis Laura Moya (CUB)	Sergio Villamayor (ARG)
Ieda Chaves (BRA)	Lester Ders (CUB)
Lourdes Cuaspud (ECU)	Amro Elgeziry (USA)
Kate French (GBR)	James Cooke (GBR)
Iryna Prasiantsova (BLR)	Valentin Prades (FRA)
Annika Schleu (GER)	Martin Vlach (CZE)
Natalya Coyle (IRL)	Lukasz Gutkowski (POL)
Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU)	Bence Demeter (HUN)
Marie Oteiza (FRA)	Justinas Kinderis (LTU)
Adelina Ibatullina (RUS)	Alexander Lifanov (RUS)
Sarolta Kovacs (HUN)	Patrick Dogue (GER)
Volha Silkina (BLR)	Valentin Belaud (FRA)
Elena Micheli (ITA)	Woongtae Jun (KOR)
Sehee Kim (KOR)	Jihun Lee (KOR)
Natsumi Takamiya (JPN)	Shuai Luo (CHN)
Alise Fakhrutdinova (UZB)	Pavel Ilyashenko (KAZ)
Mingyu Zhang (CHN)	Shohei Iwamoto (JPN)
Elena Potapenko (KAZ)	Alexander Savkin (UZB)
Marina Carrier (AUS)	Edward Fernon (AUS)

- All athletes listed have secured a quota place for their country and their participation is subject to selection by their National Olympic Committee
- All quota places listed will be protected in the revised Tokyo 2020 qualification process

UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I/II)



Mixed Relay team-mates Ahmed Elgendy and Haydy Morsy (EGY) celebrate a Fencing Bonus Round win at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I)

Athletes give their all in pursuit of Olympic ranking points

The second and third competitions of the UIPM 2021 season were held in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, providing a thrilling fortnight of UIPM Pentathlon World Cup action.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "I must thank Andrey Kuzmanov, President of the Bulgarian Modern Pentathlon Federation, and his team for managing these two competitions in an excellent way with health and safety as a priority and also finding ways to cope with bad weather conditions."

"Thanks to the excellent preparation of the athletes and the excellent organisation with super horses, we really had an excellent presentation

of our sport. Most importantly, the athletes have given everything to qualify for the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final and to raise points for the Olympic Games where we still have two more qualification competitions.

"The way they performed made us very proud and you could see how strong our sport is developing and how much they are motivated to be well prepared for the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers and the media people who have supported us and given us the best possibility to promote our sport through the athletes and the whole surroundings.

"Thanks a lot and good luck for the coming competitions."

Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I) - Women's Final

Marie Oteiza of France held off a seemingly unstoppable force to repeat her success from 2019 at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I).

Oteiza (FRA) had led the competition for much of the day but came under intense pressure from Kate French of Great Britain, chasing back-to-back golds after her success at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest.

Behind them, Anna Maliszewska of Poland showed excellent defiance to hang on to the bronze medal in the face of stern pressure applied by the in-form Joanna Muir (GBR), London 2012 Olympic champion Laura Asadauskaite of Lithuania and



Action from the Swimming pool in Sofia (BUL) and, below, London 2012 Olympic champion Laura Asadauskaite (LTU) takes part in the Fencing Bonus Round

Beijing 2008 Olympic bronze medallist Anastasiya Prokopenko of Belarus.

Those three athletes completed the top six, with Alice Sotero of Italy and Gulnaz Gubaydullina of Russia following closely behind to strengthen their own Olympic qualification prospects.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Oteiza (FRA) said: "I wasn't sure that I would finish first because Kate French was just behind me, and I was really stressed, but I couldn't be more happy than I am right now."

French (GBR) said: "I'm really pleased. It's been quite a tough day, not easy, but I'm really pleased with second place. Marie is a very good athlete and it's always tough competition with her."

Maliszewska (POL) said: "I'm so happy because this is the first World Cup medal of my career and I'm 28 this year. At the first World Cup of the season in Budapest, I didn't qualify for the final for the first time - I finished 37th. So it's like going from hell to heaven."



SWIMMING

It was no surprise to see Gubaydullina (RUS) set the standard in the pool with a time of 2min 10.73sec, but there was an intriguing contest behind her between two athletes from Italy and two from France.

Sotero (ITA) won the race for second place in 2:12.46, with Elodie Clouvel (FRA) and Elena Micheli (ITA) also going

under 2:13 and Oteiza (FRA) ending up 5th-fastest in 2:13.72.

FENCING

After her world record-breaking exploits last month in Budapest, French (GBR) was the athlete everybody wanted to beat but she performed strongly, with 22V/13D and two additional points collected in the Bonus Round to move her into 2nd place overall.

Oteiza (FRA) topped the overall standings after scoring 21V/14D and adding five points as the star of the Bonus Round. There were also 22 victories for Xiaonan Zhang of China and Francesca Summers (GBR), while Rio 2016 Olympian Maliszewska (POL) topped the standings in the Ranking Round with 23V/12D.

RIDING

A perfect score of 300 for Clouvel (FRA) allowed her to move up into the overall top 10, and she wasn't the only high-profile athlete to strengthen her position from within the pack. Asadauskaite (LTU) and Prokopenko (BLR) also made advances with scores of 292 and 293 respectively.

At the upper end of the overall standings, some high-quality riding allowed most of the leaders to stay on course. There were clean rounds for Zhang (CHN), Sotero (ITA) and Ieva Serapinaite (LTU), putting pressure on the top three.

They didn't crack under the pressure, as Maliszewska (POL) scored a clean 300 and Oteiza (FRA) did the same to maintain her supremacy, but only after French (GBR) had suffered two obstacle penalties to lose 14 points that would prove costly in the final reckoning.

LASER RUN

With a classic duel for gold and a gutsy effort to secure bronze with a marauding pack behind, there were storylines galore in the Laser Run.

Oteiza (FRA) started 13sec ahead of Maliszewska (POL) but French (GBR) was back in 6th with a 20sec deficit to make up on the leader. She did exactly that with a display of true stealth.

Brimming with confidence from her success in Budapest, the British woman moved up to 4th at the first shoot, and quickly reined in Sotero (ITA) and Maliszewska (POL) to get within sight of the leader.

Edging closer and closer with each



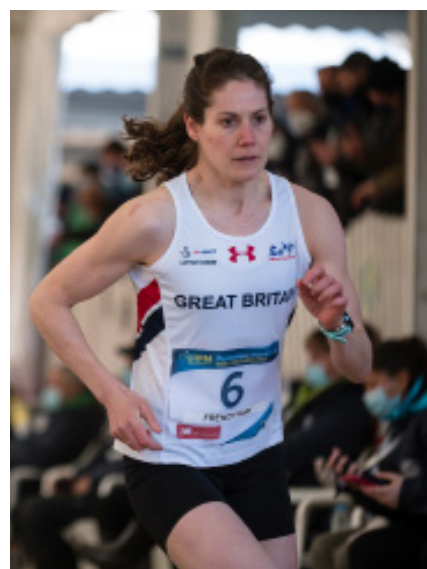
Marie Oteiza (FRA) remains in control of the Women's Final during the Riding discipline



Bronze medallist Anna Maliszewska (POL) keeps her eye on the prize during the Laser Run, as Kate French (GBR) moves up the field from a starting position of 6th

circuit, French (GBR) finally overtook Oteiza (FRA) on the third lap, but her rival was not to be daunted. Oteiza (FRA) responded with a 10sec shoot at the final visit to the range, and then summoned her stamina to run clear of French (GBR) with superb athleticism in the final 800m.

Behind them, Maliszewska (POL) knew that gold and silver were out of reach and protected her bronze with impressive conviction. If she had looked



Marie Oteiza (FRA) celebrates as she crosses the line to win gold at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II)

behind her, she would have seen Muir (GBR) giving everything in pursuit of a third consecutive Pentathlon World Cup medal – with two of the legends of the sport on her shoulder.

In that nerve-racking final lap, Muir (GBR) gained huge credit for holding off Asadauskaite (LTU) and Prokopenko (BLR), who are both renowned for their exceptional Laser Run speed and who produced the quickest times of the day – 12:00.50 and 12:08.50 respectively.

Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II) - Men's Final

He is never far from the podium and Woongtae Jun of Korea reacquainted himself with gold with a stunning victory at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II).

Three years since he last topped the podium at UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Kecskemet, Jun (KOR) reaffirmed



Action from the Swimming pool during the Men's Final in Sofia (BUL)

his status as one of the favourites for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in the first of two competitions in the Bulgarian capital.

Overcoming a 16sec deficit in the Laser Run, the world No.6 overtook leader

Ilya Palazkov of Belarus on the final lap to build on the momentum of his silver medal at UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo and bronze at the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest (HUN).



A spectacular shot of the Fencing Ranking Round during UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I)

An exhausted Palazkov (BLR) settled for bronze after running out of steam on the final lap, where he was also reined in by silver medallist Robert Kasza of Hungary.

Competition is remarkably tight in men's Modern Pentathlon this season, a fact underlined by the fact that 22 athletes finished within a minute of the champion.

There were remarkable performances in Laser Run from Shuai Luo of China (4th), Fabian Liebig of Germany (5th) and Martin Vlach of Czech Republic (7th), with Thomas Toolis of Great Britain finishing 6th and Patrick Dogue (GER) rounding out the top eight.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Reflecting on his fourth Pentathlon World Cup gold medal and third consecutive medal at a UIPM competition, Jun (KOR) said: "It's an

incredible day. For a long time I missed the competitions and it's fantastic to be back.

"In the semi-final it was snowing and my body struggled, but today was nice weather and nice conditions and I'm very happy. I'm looking forward to the Tokyo Olympic Games."

Kasza (HUN) said: "Actually I'm very glad because it was very tough for me in Budapest in the last competition. For the first time in my life I didn't make the final, so my soul was broken, my heart was broken.

"Somehow I fixed it very quickly, and I'm very proud of my team and my family and everyone who supported me - especially Richard Bereczki who gave me a lot of cheer.

"It was quite a good day and all the pieces of the puzzle came together. I'm looking forward to the next

competition and I'm so motivated."

Palazkov (BLR) said: "I'm so happy, of course. It has been a long, long road these past two years, especially last year with COVID, and I'm so happy to start competitions again. It's very beautiful."

SWIMMING

After the failure of his team-mate James Cooke to qualify for the final, Joseph Choong (GBR) had free reign in the pool and duly set the pace with a time of 1:59.24 – almost 3sec quicker than his nearest rival.

Jun (KOR) was second-fastest (2:02.18) while Bence Kardos (HUN) also collected 306 points with a time of 2:02.45.

FENCING

Two athletes stood out on the piste and put distance between themselves and the chasing pack. Sofia was treated

to a fine exhibition of Fencing by Palazkov (BLR), who scored 25V/10D, and Kasza (HUN), who accumulated 24 wins in the Ranking Round and won the final bout in the Bonus Round for two additional points.

In the shadows lurked a clutch of top-quality athletes on 21V/14D and 20V/13D, including Jun and team-mate Jinhwa Jung (KOR), Adam Marosi (HUN), Toolis (GBR), Patrick Dogue (GER) and Valentin Prades of France.

RIDING

The standard of horsemanship was highly impressive, with 10 clean rounds and no eliminations. Membership of the "300 club" with the maximum score included Toolis (GBR), who moved into 3rd in the overall standings, while Jun (KOR) and Kasza (HUN) each scored 293 to keep the pressure on the leader.

Palazkov (BLR) responded with great composure, matching that score with only one transgression to give himself a 9sec head start on Kasza (HUN) in the climactic event.

LASER RUN

If Palazkov (BLR) was nervous about the calibre of athletes pursuing him, he didn't show it. Two 9sec shoots followed by an 11sec and a 13sec made it very difficult for anyone to keep up with him and it was only towards the end of the third 800m that the chasing pack of Kasza (HUN), Jun (KOR) and Toolis (GBR) moved within sight of the leader.

The final shoot was decisive as Kasza (HUN) and Jun (KOR) held their nerve and Toolis (GBR), who had been competing strongly, lost his.

Aged 25 and still well within his athletic peak, Jun (KOR) bolted out of the range and soon moved past the flagging leader, who was also powerless to stop Kasza (HUN) overtaking and resorted to looking over his shoulder to check if anyone could deny him his first Pentathlon World Cup medal since 2018.



Action from the dramatic Riding and Laser Run disciplines as athletes chase Olympic ranking points



Robert Kasza (HUN) celebrates his silver medal, having failed to reach the final in Budapest (HUN)



Woongtae Jun (KOR) enjoys a familiar winning feeling as he crosses the line and, below, stands atop the Men's Individual podium in Sofia (BUL)

Nobody was able to do that, but the exceptional Laser Run times of Vlach (CZE, 10:29.60), Liebig (GER, 10:35.80) and Luo (CHN, 10:47.50) reasserted the point that there is no such thing as a safe lead in those 10-12 thrilling minutes when Laser Run specialists are around. Those three athletes had started the race in 33rd, 23rd and 12th respectively.

Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I) - Mixed Relay

Elena Potapenko of Kazakhstan warmed up for what promises to be her second Olympic Games appearance by winning the Mixed Relay alongside Vladislav Michshenko at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I).

It was a dominant performance by Potapenko (KAZ), who finished 9th at



Rio 2016 and secured a Tokyo 2020 quota place for her country at the 2019 Asian Championships, and her less experienced partner Michshenko (KAZ).

Competing against 18 rival pairs from around the world, the Kazakh duo

finally won by 22sec from Kseniya Klimiankova and Pavel Tsikhanau of Belarus, who were joined on the podium by bronze medallists Unju Kim and Changwan Seo of Korea.

The medal ceremony would have been hard to watch for Leidis Laura Moya

and Lester Ders of Cuba, who lost possession of silver at the final shoot and finally had to settle for 4th, ahead of Italy (Gloria Tocchi & Stefano Frezza) in 5th and Hungary (Kamilla Reti & Balazs Szep) in 6th.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Gold medallist Potapenko (KAZ) said: "It was comfortable, but today is a great day for our country. I was nervous regardless of the lead - 21sec or 1sec - but we just did our work, we stayed confident and we enjoyed it."

Silver medallist Tsikhanau (BLR) said: "It's a very good day because our start was not lucky, especially Fencing, but Modern Pentathlon is so interesting and there can be many changes in one day. We worked hard in Riding and Laser Run, and we went up from 3rd to 2nd so it's a very good day."

Bronze medallist Kim (KOR) said: "It



Kseniya Klimiankova and Pavel Tsikhanau (BLR) arrive at the Swimming pool looking relaxed

was an unbelievable race and I'm very happy. It's a nice day and we have a great feeling."

To their credit, the 4th-placed Cubans were also happy to be interviewed after

receiving their certificates alongside the medallists.

Two-time Pan American champion and 2010 Youth Olympic Games gold medallist Moya (CUB) said: "I am very



Action from the Riding discipline of the Mixed Relay during UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I)

happy because even though I couldn't prepare myself easily because of COVID, and last week [Pentathlon World Cup Budapest] wasn't so great for me either, but today we succeeded in every event and I feel it was wonderful.

"It feels good that we already qualified to the [Tokyo 2020 Olympic] Games and this competition was preparation for the Games and we hope to get other good results to be able to take part in the Pentathlon World Cup Final. We know that we have to improve in all the disciplines but the good thing is that we know which disciplines to work on specifically."

SWIMMING

A very tight contest between two neighbouring nations ended in prominence in the pool for Russia (Maria Samoilova & Vladimir Chelmakin), whose time of 1:58.27



A high five in the Fencing Bonus Round for Danilo Fagundes and Isabela Abreu (BRA)



Shared joy at the finish line for gold medallists Elena Potapenko and Vladislav Michshenko (KAZ)



Action from the Laser Run as nations compete for podium places in the Mixed Relay

upstaged Ukraine (Iryna Boicheniuk & Oleksandr Tovkai) by just 0.1sec.

There was some satisfaction for the host nation as Bulgaria (Svetla Zgurova & Denis Kolev) recorded the third-fastest time (2:01.00), a fraction of a second ahead of Guatemala (Sofia Cabrera & Charles Fernandez).

FENCING

They would finally win the competition by 22 points and this could be strongly attributed to the fact that Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Michshenko) were the best by far on the piste, scoring 26V/10D and adding two points in the Bonus Round to notch up 26 more points than their nearest rivals.

Ukraine (Boicheniuk/Tovkai) also performed well to achieve 22 victories, one more than a clutch of nations on 21 – Egypt (Haydy Morsy & Ahmed Elgendy), Cuba (Moya/Ders), Italy

(Tocchi/Frezza) and Switzerland (Anna Jurt & Maxence Hofer).

RIDING

Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Michshenko) could afford to concede a little ground on horseback and they did just that, conceding 17 penalty points after watching their rivals cut away at the overall deficit.

There were superbly composed performances by Cuba (Moya/Ders), who scored 294, and Belarus (Klimiankova/Tsikhnanau), who managed a perfect 300. That gave those two countries a surge of optimism as they embarked on the Laser Run 21sec and 27sec respectively behind the leaders.

LASER RUN

Great champions make winning look easy, and Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Michshenko) betrayed no sign of nerves as they moved serenely through

the shooting series, improving with every visit as they got their times down from 15sec to 9sec during the course of the Laser Run.

That meant the leaders could pace their running laps economically without any threat from the chasing pack, leaving all the drama behind them.

It was hard not to feel for Moya (CUB), who successfully protected her starting position of 2nd, and her hard-running partner Ders (CUB), who fought to earn the position back from Tsikhnanau (BLR) during the third lap, only to get stuck on the range for 25sec at the final shoot and leave himself too much to do.

The most impressive Laser Run came from Korea (Kim/Seo), who had started in 7th place but chewed up a 35sec deficit behind Cuba (Moya/Ders) to snatch bronze.



Action from the Swimming discipline as the second Women's Final in consecutive weeks gets under way in Sofia (BUL)

Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II) - Women's Final

Michelle Gulyas of Hungary surged to a remarkable, rain-soaked gold medal at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II), making up four places in the Laser Run and winning comfortably.

The victory continued an impressive breakthrough season for the 21-year-old, who won the season-opening Hungarian Open and is fighting for a Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualification place with the likes of Tamara Alekszejev (HUN), who finished 6th.

The last women's event of the regular season saw Gulyas (HUN) joined on the podium by an athlete who began competing in Modern Pentathlon a year before she was born, as well as a fellow first-time medallist.

Francesca Summers became the third woman from Great Britain to win an individual Pentathlon World Cup medal this season and it was remarkable to see her overtake the legendary Anastasiya Prokopenko of Belarus on the final lap to earn silver, with team-mate Joanna Muir (GBR) gritting her teeth to finish 4th.

Prokopenko (BLR), who became world champion in 2018 a decade

after her performance at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games earned her a retrospective bronze medal, bulleted through the field in typical style to move from 16th to the podium, proving once again that age is no barrier at 36.

Mexico athletes have competed strongly this season and Mayan Oliver came home in 5th place, with Gulnaz Gubaydullina of Russia (7th) and Ilke Ozyuksel of Turkey (8th) completing

the top eight.

The drama of the Laser Run caused a profound reversal of the leaderboard, as the two athletes who had started first – Adelina Ibatullina (RUS) and Xiaonan Zhang of China - finished 11th and 10th respectively.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Gulyas (HUN) said: "It's my first World Cup medal and I'm really happy. I



A tense battle between Hungary and Russia in the Fencing Bonus Round



Tamara Alekszejev (HUN) keeps her balance during the Women's Final in Sofia (BUL)

tried to focus on myself and my own performance and I did my best and it worked out. It's been tough to have two competitions in two weeks, and I also competed in Budapest, but last week I was tense and I managed to raise my performance, so I'm really happy."

Summers (GBR) said: "I'm over the moon. I had a lot left on that last lap and I just went for it - I'm so happy. It was a day of ups and downs but that's Modern Pentathlon, and I can't tell you how happy I am right now.

"There were some tough corners on the course and it was really slippery from the Riding, but luckily I'm small and I was able to nip round them and that helped me today. [Prokopenko] had me in the last World Cup, she just beat me, and I got her back today so I'm really happy."

Prokopenko (BLR) said: "I'm happy

because my coaches said my shooting was not good in the last two World Cups in Budapest and Sofia, and today I was very, very good at shooting and I'm happy because I just ran, ran, ran. Maybe I'm third because I'm old! But it's true: I've been in Modern Pentathlon for 21 years and it's hard. But I am strong and it's my life. See you at the World Cup Final!"

SWIMMING

Gubaydullina (RUS) set the standard in the pool as she does so often, timing 2:10.08 to win clearly from nearest rivals Rena Shimazu of Japan (2:13.81) and Gulyas (HUN, 2:14.09).

FENCING

Two athletes stood out head and shoulders over the rest on the piste, as Ibatullina (RUS) and Zhang (CHN) each scored a remarkable 27V/8D.

Ibatullina (RUS), the 2019 world junior

champion who secured a Tokyo 2020 quota place at the European Championships the same year, added two points to her overall score by winning the final bout in the Bonus Round.

Behind them, Alekszejev (HUN) moved into a strong position with 24V/11D, the same scoreline as Sunwoo Kim of Korea.

RIDING

A remarkably high standard of riding was evident as 10 athletes scored the maximum 300 points, including Laser Run specialists like Prokopenko (BLR) and Ozyuksel (TUR).

Muir (GBR) moved up the leaderboard with a clean round, while Summers (GBR) dropped just two penalty points to stay just ahead of her team-mate overall. Oliver (MEX) also scored 298 to stay in contention, and Ibatullina (RUS,

293) extended her lead over Zhang (CHN, 286) to give herself a 20sec head start in Laser Run.

LASER RUN

The first half of the race went serenely for 22-year-old Ibatullina (RUS), who shot decisively, but it was one of those days when the hunger of the chasing pack was to prove more powerful than the composure of the leaders.

With Gulyas (HUN), Muir and Summers (GBR) and Oliver (MEX) making immediate moves within the top 10, it was only a matter of time before the front-runners felt their presence, although Alekszejev (HUN) had a terrible day with her laser shooting and that opened the door somewhat wider for the chasers.

The third lap was when most of the big moves took place: Gulyas (HUN) overpowered Zhang (CHN) and soon reined in the tiring Ibatullina (RUS) to take control.

In the final lap, Prokopenko (BLR) bolted out of the range and into the silver-medal position but Summers (GBR) was quickly on her shoulder and ensured the women of Great Britain kept up their remarkable record of medal success in this Tokyo 2020 qualification journey, final winning their duel by 2sec to finish 8sec behind the champion.

Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II) - Men's Final

If the mark of a champion is the ability to recover from a fall, Joseph Choong of Great Britain demonstrated a masterclass on the way to gold at UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II).

After nine days of competition in two weeks, the grass surface used for Riding and Laser Run in Sofia (BUL) had deteriorated beyond repair and organisers had to apply sand to make it



Michelle Gulyas (HUN) grits her teeth during a tough Laser Run and, below, celebrates with her gold medal on the Women's Individual podium



safe for the final event of the fortnight: the Men's Final Laser Run.

In heavy rain, Choong (GBR) found himself on his knees many times as he tried to manoeuvre the tight corners

of the course, but the world No.1 coped well enough to secure his first individual gold since the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Tokyo (JPN).

The champion was pushed all the way by Ilya Palazkov of Belarus, who in turn did just enough to restrain 35-year-old Robert Kasza of Hungary – and the duo switched positions on the podium as they celebrated with their respective silver and bronze medals, a reverse of their prizes from the first leg of the double-header.

Behind them there was a fierce scramble for all positions as athletes ran their hearts out knowing this was their last chance to qualify for this season's 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final, which will be the second-last opportunity to gain points in the UIPM Olympic World Ranking that will determine the remaining qualifiers for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The intensity of the qualification race was underlined by the fact Kasza (HUN) was joined by three team-mates in the top 10, as Bence Kardos (HUN) moved up from 13th to finish 4th with Richard Bereczki and Bence Demeter coming home 8th and 9th respectively.

Ondrej Svehota was the best of four finalists from the Czech Republic in 5th, one place ahead of last week's champion Woongtae Jun of Korea, with Sebastian Stasiak of Poland in 7th.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Choong (GBR) said: "That was definitely the worst running conditions I've ever experienced in a Modern Pentathlon competition. It was like being at home and doing cross-country, which I used to run at school. I've never fallen so many times in a Laser Run - unbelievable.

"We had a lot of competitions in quick succession so we had a good idea of everyone's fitness levels. The plan was to stick with [Ilya Palazkov] for the first two runs and then push him and apply some pressure on the third, and then hopefully I would be able to take the lead going into the final lap."

Palazkov (BLR) said: "I'm so happy. I came back last week with a bronze and



Top to bottom: action from the Swimming pool in the Men's Final; Ilya Palazkov (BLR) defeats Joseph Choong (GBR) in the final bout of the Fencing Bonus Round; action from the Riding arena



now I moved up one position and it's so nice for me because I have points for the qualification for the Olympic Games. I don't have words. I think the running conditions were not bad, just dirty, but actually it was hard all day. And hard to have two World Cups in two weeks, so hard!"

Kasza (HUN) said: "Last week a silver and now a bronze, both podiums, and in the last month there was so much emotion and stress and it just ran through me, I couldn't hold it back somehow."

"It was a horrible day and I'm so glad to finish. It was really hard because all the corners were slippery and I couldn't find my frequency in running, no rhythm and there was no chance to catch up. In shooting I made a couple of mistakes and that meant I could not move up to Ilya."

SWIMMING

Another epic duel between two teammates saw Choong (GBR) defeat James Cooke (GBR) by 0.04sec to set a fastest time of 2:01.05. Jun (KOR) was third-fastest in 2:02.12 ahead of Kardos (HUN, 2:02.42).

FENCING

For the second Men's Final in succession, the top fencer was Palazkov (BLR) and this time he put more distance between himself and the rest of the field.

Palazkov (BLR) achieved a superb 27V/8D, two more victories than last week, in the Ranking Round and topped up score by two in the Bonus Round finale.

Once again, Kasza (HUN) was not far behind and he was joined on 24V/11D by Choong (GBR) and Svehota (CZE). Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine put together a run of five wins in the Bonus Round.

RIDING

Scoring was high in Sofia (BUL) across the fortnight and there were another nine clean rounds today with 272 the lowest score.

Maximum scorers included Choong (GBR) and Kasza (HUN), while Palazkov (BLR) only dropped seven points and narrowly retained the overall lead.

Svehota (CZE), Jun and Jinhwa Jung

(KOR) also did as much as they could to put pressure on the leaders with scores of 300, as did Demeter and Kardos (HUN), Duilio Carrillo of Mexico and Thomas Toolis (GBR).

LASER RUN

Burdened by only the minimum 1sec handicap, Choong (GBR) looked like an odds-on favourite for gold and he paced his race cleverly, keeping in mind his renowned sprint finish and the deteriorating conditions.

Palazkov (BLR) did nothing to make life easy for his rival, shooting smoothly, and it was only on the third lap that the pair were separated as Choong (GBR) built a 6sec lead that he protected nervelessly at the final visit to the shooting range.

Palazkov (BLR) had no intention of letting Kasza (HUN) overtake him for the second week in a row, this time keeping enough distance between himself and his 35-year-old rival to earn a satisfying silver.

There was no sense of disappointment for 35-year-old Kasza (HUN), who had feared his Olympic dream was over



Ilya Palazkov (BLR) leads at the start of the Laser Run, closely followed by Joseph Choong (GBR)

at Pentathlon World Cup Budapest in March when he fell short of the Men's Final.

Now it is very much back on, although competition is fierce in the Hungarian team, and Kasza (HUN) ran a largely solitary race in protecting his bronze medal position.

Behind him, Jun (KOR) looked like the greatest threat having moved up from 9th to 4th in the early stages, but he stalled at the final shoot and was passed by Svehota (CZE) and the impressive Kardos (HUN), who climbed nine places to cross the finish line behind the medallists.

Given the underfoot and overhead conditions, times were inevitably slower than usual but Kardos (HUN) timed 11:18.80 and Patrick Dogue of Germany registered 11:20.90 as he cut through the back of the field, demonstrating the importance of every point in the ongoing process of qualifying for Tokyo 2020.

COVID-19 Coronavirus protocols: UIPM statement

The second and third competitions of the UIPM 2021 season, UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I and II), were run according to a set of COVID-19 protocols designed to prioritise the health and safety of all participants – athletes, coaches, technical officials and organisers.

The protocols are applied to all aspects of the competition from inbound and outbound travel to accommodation and local transportation, with the intention of minimising risk of COVID-19 infections. Special publications including the Event Organizers Infection Prevention Guidelines and Operational Vade Mecum can be found at uipmworld.org/covid-19-information

Around 400 tests were carried out during UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World



Soaked in rain and mud, Joseph Choong (GBR) celebrates his victory in Sofia (BUL)

Cup Sofia (II), nine of which returned a positive result for COVID-19. This followed around 600 tests taken during UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I).

The nine individuals who tested positive – seven athletes and two coaches from seven countries – were immediately quarantined in the competition hotel and will remain so for a total period of 10 days, according to Bulgarian law.

Thirty-two contacts of the nine individuals were identified, each of whom was, like those who tested positive, ruled ineligible to participate or continue participating in Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II).

The competition was staged successfully with 170 athletes participating across the four days. This followed the successful staging of UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest, where one positive case of COVID-19 was detected, and UIPM

2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I), where two positive cases of COVID-19 were detected. UIPM would like to express its gratitude to the local organisers and medical experts who have helped to facilitate the smooth running of these competitions and given so many athletes the opportunity to progress their goals of qualifying for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

UIPM would also like to thank all members of the global Modern Pentathlon community who attended the competitions and abided by the rules and measures put in place to protect their health and safety.

UIPM will now work closely with local organisers in Szekesfehervar (HUN) and Cairo (EGY) to ensure that rigorous COVID-19 protocols are maintained throughout the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final and UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships, taking place from May 13-16 and June 8-14 respectively.

News from around the world



A collage of the 12 eligible candidates for the UIPM Athletes Committee elections (above) and six of the 10 eligible candidates for the UIPM Coaches Committee elections (right)

Eligible candidates revealed for UIPM Athletes and Coaches Committees

Twenty-two prominent members of the global UIPM Sports community have been confirmed as eligible candidates to sit on the UIPM Athletes Committee and UIPM Coaches Committee for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games cycle.

Elections will take place in Cairo (EGY) during the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in June 2021 – where athletes and coaches will have the opportunity to vote for members of their applicable committees.

Twelve athletes and 10 coaches from across the six continental



Kyra Seow (SGP), 11, pictured with her Virtual Youth Festival medal, which she earned after an exceptional video contribution to support her role as an ambassador representing UIPM Sports

confederations have been confirmed as eligible to stand for election to serve from 2021 to 2024.

The Athletes Committee elections will be split into two rounds. In the first round, one athlete representing each of the six confederations (Africa, Asia, Europe, NORCECA, Oceania and South America) will be elected. Their names will then be removed from the second (worldwide) ballot, where a seventh UIPM Athletes Committee member will be elected from the remaining names.

The Coaches Committee election will be more straight-forward – one representative will be elected from each continent in a single ballot.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “We are very much looking forward to the elections for the UIPM Athletes and Coaches Committees in June 2021 and I would urge every athlete and coach from our community to attend the elections in Cairo and cast their vote.

“Along with the UIPM Technical Committee, our athletes and coaches have an important responsibility to represent their peers in these important decision-making forums during the next cycle of the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024.”

UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang added: “We had a very positive response to the call for candidates in 2020, and we are delighted now to be in a position to present the eligible candidates after the unforeseen delays of the past 12 months.

“The candidates truly represent the diversity of our global community, and we all look forward to working with the candidates who are successful in the forthcoming elections in shaping our sport in the years to come.”



Ambassador Kyra Seow (SGP) receives Virtual Youth Festival award

Kyra to find out how she felt about the honour.

Q: How do you feel about winning the Ambassador Award?

A: Honestly, I am very surprised to receive the award. I just wanted to do my bit to support UTS VYF and convey the message of resilience, unity and diversity while feeling like I was a participant at the same time.

Of course, I am also ecstatic and deeply honoured. I am glad UTS found what I did meaningful and aligned to their goals. I have to thank my parents, UIPM, SIMPA (Singapore Modern Pentathlon Association), and

With preparations already under way for the 2021 VYF, we caught up with

UTS for the opportunity and support. I would also like to thank the athletes and organisers for making the event possible and a success. I want to thank all the online supporters and people who liked and followed my posts too!

Q: How did you enjoy the experience of VYF?

A: It was truly a unique experience and privilege for me to be an ambassador. Through my role, I learnt so much more about the various sports and the athletes. It gave me such excitement to promote the events and athletes and cheer them on virtually thousands of miles away.

The various online workshops I attended also provided me with greater insights into the sports and organisations. The appointment also spurred me to raise my ICT skills to further familiarise myself with social media.

Q: What do you see as your future goals in UIPM Sports?

A: I hope to be able to continue to be an ambassador for UIPM and SIMPA in my own way, even if it is in an unofficial capacity, by being a role model.

I want to promote UIPM Sports on social media and through my participation. If I can receive sufficient support and funding, I would love to represent Singapore at UIPM Sports on the world stage and perhaps represent UIPM at cross / multi-sport events like the UTS VYF.

UIPM Coaches Certification Programme: Development coaches begin journey in Tashkent (UZB)

Eleven coaches from across Uzbekistan have climbed the first rung of the ladder on the UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) after a week-long course in Tashkent (UZB).

The course, overseen by UIPM Instructor and Level 4 coach Alexei Vasilianov of Moldova from March 29 to April 2, was the first at Level 1 of the CCP to be conducted online and was delivered simultaneously in Russian and Uzbek.

The goal of the course was to educate and certify UIPM Development Coaches to enable them to create a plan for recruitment strategies and talent identification and to safely

manage Laser Run, Biathle and Triathle training sessions.

Alexei Vasilianov (MDA) said: "Modern Pentathlon in Uzbekistan in developing very fast and significantly at the moment. The President of the Uzbek Federation has managed to get a team of young, enthusiastic and eager to develop individuals. They do not have enough experience in Modern Pentathlon yet, but they have good potential, resources and ambitions.

"Thanks to UIPM preparation, guidance and control we have successfully managed to deliver the course, both theoretical and practical sessions, to a high level."

Newcomer Claire Green (USA) savours debut UIPM Pentathlon World Cup season

While much of the focus has been on the athletes aiming to qualify for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympics, many others have been competing in the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup with different goals.



Students of the CCP Level 1 coaching course in Tashkent (UZB)

For Claire Green of the USA, the ambition of taking part in the global Modern Pentathlon circuit for the first time has already been realised, and she appears to be loving every minute of it.

Speaking after her third Pentathlon World Cup appearance in Sofia (BUL), the 24-year-old described the steep learning curve she has experienced since agreeing to an offer from USA Pentathlon High Performance Director Genadijus Sokolovas to pivot from her track-and-field career.

Green (USA) also talked about her sporting origins, her vocation outside of sport and the highly favourable impression her fellow international pentathletes have made on her since she joined the circuit.

Q: How did you get involved in Modern Pentathlon and what other sports have you done?

A: About three or four years ago I was still in college and I was running track and field. One day out of the blue I got an email from Dr G [Sokolovas] who was with US Modern Pentathlon and wanted me to come to a training camp.

In March 2020 when the Tokyo Olympics were postponed, Dr G reached out and said there might be an opportunity to train, partly for Tokyo but really for Paris 2024. I was still running at that time but he kept calling and said I should give it a shot and I finally said yes, and I moved back to Colorado and started training about a month later.

I swam for about 15 years but I was a very mediocre swimmer and track was my main sport.

Q: What are your impressions of Modern Pentathlon so far?

A: The thing I have come to love most is the respect the athletes have for each other.

The high level of talent you see in every event is something you're never going to see anywhere else, and it's



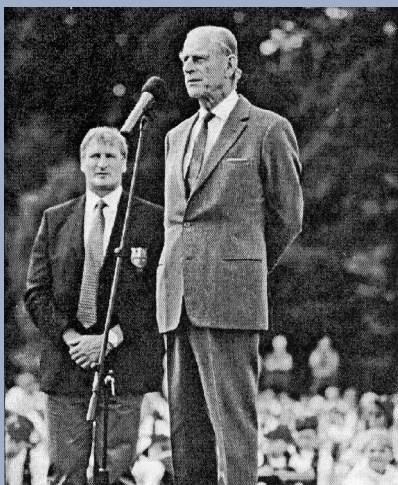
Claire Green (USA) demonstrates her running and swimming prowess during Pentathlon World Cups



Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (1921-2021)

UIPM has written to HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH the Princess Royal to express condolences on the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who has died aged 99.

The Duke had been Patron of Pentathlon GB since 1958 and formally opened the UIPM 2001 World Championships in Millfield (GBR), one year after Stephanie Cook and Kate Allenby won the country's first Olympic Modern Pentathlon medals at Sydney 2000.



Picture courtesy of Millfield School

The Duke also served as President of the International Equestrian

Federation (FEI), where he was succeeded by his daughter, the Princess Royal (herself a multiple Olympian and now International Olympic Committee Member).

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "As Patron of Pentathlon GB for 63 years, the Duke played an important role in the development and growth of Modern Pentathlon in the United Kingdom."

"When the Duke formally opened the 2001 UIPM World Championships at Millfield School it was a special moment that will live long in the minds of all who attended the ceremony."

very exciting because every time you compete, it doesn't matter if it's the reigning Olympic champion next to you, someone might come out of the blue and take that competition and I love that.

Q: Are you studying alongside your training?

A: I already graduated and right now I'm a freelance journalist, so I've done a lot of writing. This year I started writing more to give myself time to train, especially for Fencing because that's not something that comes naturally to me and it's been difficult.

It's been a challenge to learn to train for five sports simultaneously. It takes more time and it takes more mental discipline, because if you have a bad session in the morning you have to pull yourself together and get back out there for the next session. It's also about learning to manage your recovery, and it's difficult but I like it.

Q: How many hours do you train?

A: I'm probably training 40 hours a week right now, and a lot of that has to do with the fact that I started late and I really wanted to make the World Cup cycle – I over-trained for a couple of months.

Q: What is your favourite discipline?

A: Ironically, I think my favourite discipline is the ride – I'm not very good at it yet but I've never been around horses until now and I love them. Also the longer I fence, the more I enjoy fencing.

Q: What is your favourite thing about Modern Pentathlon?

A: Getting to compete with so many athletes from different countries is an experience I haven't had before, and I like that I am starting to get to know my competitors.

You see the same faces all the time but you see them all around the world, and that's not an experience you're going to get from any other sport.

UIPM President and Secretary General meet HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, who has served as Honorary President of UIPM since 1996, hosted a meeting with President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang on April 12, 2021 within the Prince's Palace of Monaco.

HSB Prince Albert II of Monaco, who is also a Member of the International Olympic Committee, was briefed on recent UIPM activities including innovation projects, preparations for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (taking place in 2021) and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Executive Board events and forthcoming elections.

They discussed matters of international sporting politics within the Olympic movement, gender equality and environmental issues, financial and social consequences of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, and the close partnership between UIPM and the Principality of Monaco, which has been the home of UIPM Headquarters since 1997. The potential possibility of hosting future UIPM Congresses in Monaco was discussed.

HSB Prince Albert II of Monaco complimented the progress made by UIPM and pledged to continue supporting the activities of the global Modern Pentathlon community, having recently assisted and supported the Union in finding a spacious new office base for UIPM Headquarters within the Principality.

Inside UIPM News update

UIPM extends contract of Secretary General Shiny Fang until 2025

UIPM has extended the contract of Shiny Fang as Secretary General until June 2025.

Mrs Fang will continue to manage the UIPM administration throughout the Paris 2024 Olympic Games cycle, where Modern Pentathlon will be a core sport on the programme for the 26th consecutive Olympic Summer Games.

Now in her ninth year as Secretary General based in the new UIPM Headquarters in Monaco, under the leadership of the UIPM President and Executive Board, Mrs Fang has overseen a major expansion of UIPM's operational staff and the empowerment of a growing global community of member federations cultivating the development of UIPM Sports.

Mrs Fang, Deputy Competition Manager of Modern Pentathlon at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and Competition Manager at the 2010 Asian Games, started her UIPM responsibility assisting the UIPM President on international affairs in 2008. She was appointed Secretary General by the UIPM Executive Board in December 2012, succeeding Joel Bouzou OLY who became UIPM Vice President in 2013. Since then, Shiny has managed all areas of the organisation with the support of the UIPM Executive Board and the full trust of the UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann.

Shiny said: "I am thrilled and honoured to be given the opportunity to continue in this role until 2025 and grateful to the UIPM Executive Board and President for putting their faith in me."

"When I started this journey as UIPM Secretary General, the sport and the



community were immersed in traditions and heritage – and mostly in a positive way. Within this relatively conservative environment, there was some reluctance to change habits and ways of thinking.

"It is true that nothing can be built without a root and a base, and convincing stakeholders to adjust their view of our movement has been the most difficult part of the job, especially to secure the faith of the community that our direction of travel is the right one for the future of UIPM Sports."

"After two Olympic cycles, all competition and event organizers and member federations have become more and more collaborative in the process of evolving, improving and adapting to the 21st century, facing the reality of a competitive sports landscape with a willingness to embrace trends and

engage new generations."

Looking forward, in line with the UIPM President and Executive Board's vision for the future of UIPM Sports and guided by a commitment to continuous innovation as seen in projects like the new Olympic Modern Pentathlon format, Mrs Fang is focused on making UIPM the most diverse multi-sport organisation with multiple dimensions.

She said: "The organisation can't grow without ambition, and to think and act as an entrepreneur is the responsibility and duty of this job. Modern Pentathlon was created by a visionary, the modern Olympic Games founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and we certainly won't abandon those roots, but we will also become pioneers of the future."

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann

said: "In 2008, when Shiny started working for me and UIPM, I already saw her loyalty, solidarity and respect from the beginning.

"Mrs Fang has a high capacity of intellectual mental conditions and this was invaluable during the past 15 months when we all learned, through COVID-19, how fast life and humanity worldwide can be influenced and affected.

"Based on my long experience of a close working partnership with the UIPM Secretary General, always acting in tandem with her, I was able to handle all requirements to maintain the stability of our Union. Solidarity, consideration, strong support and discipline are needed to overcome such enormous pandemic and we worked closely together with the support and assistance of the UIPM Executive Board.

"I am convinced that with Mrs Shiny Fang as UIPM Secretary General, I am able

to continue serving as UIPM President at a high level to the benefit of all our member federations and the Olympic movement, following the philosophy of our creator Baron Pierre de Coubertin."

UIPM 1st Vice-President Juan Antonio Samaranch said: "The Union has gone through a remarkable transformation in the last nine years since Shiny assumed her responsibilities as Secretary General in our organisation.

"There were urgent challenges that needed analysis and immediate action in critical areas such as modernizing our internal organization, improving the sport's competition format and securing our role within the Olympic movement. Mrs Fang, under the leadership of our President Klaus Schormann, has been key in successfully dealing with all these issues and taking UIPM to a new level of excellence.

"I look forward to four more years of

cooperation and hard work towards an even brighter future for our sport."

Shiny Fang is a former synchronised swimmer and aerobic gymnast who became a head coach and international judge. She has a Bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine and a Master's degree in Sports Management & Industry, and she began her career in sports administration and international relations in 2004.

She served as Vice President of the International Cheer Union (2010-2018) and served as supervisor of sports presentation in a variety of multi-sport Games. Shiny is currently a Sports Development and Education Consultative Group Member of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and member of the Global Esports Federation (GEF) Advisory Council.

Mrs Fang is married and has one son.



UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang pictured with UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann in the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI)

Inside UIPM

Monthly activities of President Dr Klaus Schormann



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann is visited by UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang in the President's Office in Darmstadt and, below, they meet together with HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, UIPM's Honorary President, in the Prince's Palace of Monaco (MON)



07.04.2021: Darmstadt, GER

Prior to UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (I), UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang visited the UIPM President's Office to discuss various matters relating to the future with UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann.

Dr Schormann invited Mrs Fang to discuss the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and important steps in preparation, how UIPM can continue to handle the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic in future competitions and how UIPM will approach the remaining three years of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games cycle.

This was a very important meeting for the future of UIPM and internal working processes between UIPM Headquarters and the President's Office, which are now streamlined for the coming years.

12.04.2021: Monaco, MON

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang met HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the UIPM Honorary President, within the Prince's Palace of Monaco.

They discussed matters of international sporting politics, gender equality and the environment, the UIPM movement within the IOC, preparations for Tokyo 2020, steps linked to Paris 2024 and the electoral UIPM Congress, which is scheduled to take place in November 2021.

The vaccination of athletes and officials as a means of managing the pandemic through upcoming UIPM competitions and the Olympic Games was also discussed.

The strong relationship between UIPM



Left to right: Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II) medal ceremony VIPs Dr Klaus Schormann, Janusz Peciak OLY and Andrey Kuzmanov, President of the Bulgarian Modern Pentathlon Federation (BMPF)

and the Government of Monaco will continue to be a helpful pillar in the coming years.

14.-19.04.2021: Sofia, BUL

President Dr Schormann attended UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II), which took place in very difficult weather conditions. Thanks to the excellent preparation and organisation of the Bulgaria Modern Pentathlon Federation (BMPF) an excellent presentation of Modern Pentathlon was achieved.

During the competition the UIPM President had meetings about a Modern Pentathlon Centre within the Sport University in Sofia (BUL) and discussed future international competitions in Bulgaria with BMPF President Andrey Kuzmanov and Secretary General Kameliya Aleksandrova.

20.04.2021: Wiesbaden, GER

UIPM President Dr Schormann met with Dr Heinz-Georg Sundermann, CEO of Lotto Hessen, to discuss national and international sport activities during the pandemic.

The main points discussed were income generation through sponsorship and government, ongoing business partnerships for national and international sport federations and clubs.



The UIPM President with BMPF Secretary General Kameliya Aleksandrova, BMPF President Andrey Kuzmanov and all competition volunteers in Sofia (BUL)



Dr Schormann shares a laugh with Janusz Peciak OLY during a planning meeting and (right) meets with BMPF President Andrey Kuzmanov and sponsors Georgi Kalchev (General Manager, GTA Petroleum Bulgaria) and Milen Christov (Member of Management Board, Avto Union jsc. Bulgaria)



The UIPM President gives a media interview in Sofia (BUL) and meets with Dr Heinz-Georg Sundermann, CEO of Lotto Hessen, in Wiesbaden (GER)

21.-26.04.2021: Budapest, HUN

President Dr Schormann attended the third and final test event for the new Modern Pentathlon format, designed for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, to gain a perspective of how the athletes perform in this new format.

The feedback given by all athletes and coaches in Budapest (HUN) was nearly 100% positive and the new format is an important step for the future of Modern

Pentathlon, which will enable viewers and spectators to see all five disciplines in 90 minutes. The format is also more attractive for athletes.

During the competition Dr Schormann had several constructive meetings with Dr Gyula Bretz, President of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association (HMPA) and Dr Krisztian Kulcsar, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

On April 22 Dr Schormann had a

video conference with the President of Bavarian Modern Pentathlon, Olaf Kleidon. They discussed the COVID-19 situation in Germany and how this could affect the UIPM Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships in Weiden (GER) in August 2021. They also spoke about the 50th anniversary of the Munich 1972 Olympic Games, coming up in 2022.

On April 25 Dr Schormann invited officials and UIPM staff to a social lunch to discuss organizational aspects

Left to right: UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, HMPA President Dr Gyula Bretz, Hungarian NOC President Dr Krisztian Kulcsar in Budapest (HUN)

of the competitions, to reflect on the successful test event and to discuss the future of the Olympic Movement with President Dr Kulcsar.

Also present were Dr Gyula Bretz and Zsofi Csaszari (Head of Operations, HMPA), Anna Bajan (President, Polish Modern Pentathlon Federation), UIPM Executive Board Members Janusz Peciak (Member for Sport) and Christian Roudaut (Chair, Coaches Committee), Corinne Bouzou (UIPM Technical Delegate), Alexandre Franca (UIPM Operations Director), Florent Boas (UIPM Media Operations Manager), Tamer Samy (UIPM IT Manager), Tamas Varga (UIPM Competitions Manager) and Lena Nussbaumer (Executive Assistant to the UIPM President).

29.04.2021: Darmstadt, GER

Two representatives of Source for Alpha AG, a financial services organisation, visited the UIPM President to discuss the global market outlook as a result of COVID-19.

Managing Partner Dr Christian Funke and Director Volker Senssfelder (UIPM Financial Consultant) presented their financial structures and discussed future possibilities for financial management.



President Dr Schormann and President Dr Bretz with UIPM EB Member for Sport Janusz Peciak OLY



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann in a video conference with Olaf Kleidon (President of Bavarian Modern Pentathlon) and meets in his office in Darmstadt (GER) with Dr Christian Funke and Volker Senssfelder of Source for Alpha AG



Pentathlon World Rankings
- Updated after UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (II)

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 30 April 2021:

MEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	215
2	KOR	Woongtae JUN	185
3	KOR	Jihun LEE	181
4	FRA	Valentin PRADES	175
5	GER	Marvin DOGUE	171
6	HUN	Robert KASZA	169
7	BLR	Ilya PALAZKOV	164
8	GBR	James COOKE	162
9	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	160
10	UKR	Pavlo TYMOSHCHENKO	159
11	GER	Patrick DOGUE	151
12	RUS	Alexander LIFANOV	148
13	HUN	Adam MAROSI	148
14	CHN	Shuai LUO	145
15	CHN	Shuhuan LI	144
16	CZE	Martin VLACH	141
17	LTU	Justinas KINDERIS	140
18	EGY	Eslam HAMAD	135
19	KOR	Jinhwa JUNG	134
20	CHN	Linbin ZHANG	130

WOMEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	195
2	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	186
3	GBR	Kate FRENCH	186
4	GER	Annika SCHLEU	179
5	ITA	Elena MICHELI	173
6	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	173
7	GBR	Joanna MUIR	169
8	RUS	Gulnaz GUBAYDULLINA	169
9	BLR	Volha SILKINA	164
10	BLR	Anastasiya PROKOPENKO	161
11	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	158
12	BLR	Iryna PRASIANTSOVA	157
13	RUS	Uliana BATASHOVA	153
14	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	145
15	GBR	Francesca SUMMERS	141
16	KOR	Sunwoo KIM	141
17	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	140
18	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	138
19	POL	Anna MALISZEWSKA	138
20	JPN	Natsumi TAKAMIYA	136

! The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are all available at www.pentathlon.org

WATCH LIVE
UIPMTV.ORG

13-16 May
Pentathlon World Cup Final
Szekesfehervar (HUN)

8-14 June
Pentathlon World Championships
Cairo (EGY)

WATCH REPLAYS
UIPMTV.ORG

Mar 2021
Pentathlon World Cup Budapest

Apr 2021
Pentathlon World Cup Sofia I (BUL)

Apr 2021
Pentathlon World Cup Sofia II (BUL)

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Contact:
media@pentathlon.org



13-16.5.21



UIPM
PENTATHLON
World Cup Final
SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR 2021



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

"The Modern Pentathlon event would test a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete."

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