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DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



World Pentathlon
Newsletter

CONTENTS

- UIPM President announcement - p.2
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara - p.4
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest - p.12
- Voyage to Paris 2024: Part XIII - p.20
- UIPM Para Sports Spotlight - p.26
- News from around the world - p.28
- Inside UIPM: Secretary General's Message - p.31
- Inside UIPM: President's Activities - p.32
- Pentathlon World Rankings - p.40

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC SEASON IN FULL SWING



Clockwise from top left, Changwan Seo (KOR), Mohanad Shaban (EGY), Ilke Ozyuksel (TUR) and Kerenza Bryson (GBR) in UIPM Pentathlon World Cup action



UIPM President announcement

Dr Klaus Schormann will not seek re-election as UIPM President, marking the end of an era

Dr Klaus Schormann has announced that he will not seek re-election as President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne at the 73rd UIPM Congress in November 2024.

Dr Schormann, 77, intends to bring his Presidential tenure to a close at the end of this year having served at the helm of the global Modern Pentathlon movement since July 1993. He will leave, in the words of 1st Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch, "an extraordinary legacy".

Innovation and modernisation have been cornerstones of Dr Schormann's Presidency, starting with the UIPM 1993 Modern Pentathlon World Championships in Darmstadt (GER) where a one-day format was adopted for the first time and fire pistols were used in Shooting for the last time.

Since then, Modern Pentathlon has evolved with a series of forward-thinking reforms driven by President Schormann, culminating in the decision of the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session in October 2023 to approve the revitalised sport for the programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

At Paris 2024, Dr Schormann will oversee his eighth Olympic Pentathlon as UIPM President, bringing the Riding era to a close before the sport embraces a new future with Obstacle integrated with Fencing, Swimming and Laser Run (shooting/running).

Today's announcement paves the way for the UIPM community to elect its seventh President at UIPM 2024 Congress in Riyadh (KSA) on November 16-17, 2024. However, having served



Dr. Klaus Schormann first became UIPM President in July 1993.

the movement as a senior administrator since 1972, Dr Schormann does not intend to end his involvement in Modern Pentathlon.

UIPM President's statement

Dr Klaus Schormann, UIPM President, said: "It has been the privilege of my life to serve UIPM as President. I do my best every day to preserve the wonderful legacy of Modern Pentathlon's founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and I will continue to hold this responsibility until December 2024, always keeping in mind the need for our multi-sport to be modern and relevant to new generations as a pillar of the Olympic Movement.

"Modern Pentathlon is a sport defined by heritage and innovation, with strong values of respect, education and fair play. Our athletes are role models of athleticism, courage and versatility. Overseeing this movement is our Union,

a noble society that has grown into a global community with more than 130 member nations and new opportunities to explore with the ongoing integration of World Obstacle.

"I am extremely proud of what we have achieved by all working together. The world will see a wonderful show in Paris this summer, and four years later in Los Angeles it will be even better.

"In the interests of good governance, the time is approaching for me to pass the mantle to a new President, to whom I will offer my guidance and advice in an appropriate capacity. I have built my life around this role and I will have a lot to offer to UIPM as we move into an exciting new era.

"There are many people I would like to thank, and there will be time for reflection in due course. For now, a busy 2024 continues! There are many

exciting possibilities in front of us as we savour the glory of our beloved sport appearing on the ultimate stage, powered by the Olympic values – Faster, Stronger, Higher... Together."

UIPM Executive Board statements

Juan Antonio Samaranch, UIPM 1st Vice President and Vice President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), led the tributes to President Dr Schormann, saying: "Klaus Schormann will leave an extraordinary legacy when he retires as UIPM President at the end of this year. Modern Pentathlon has a very exciting opportunity to explore new horizons and much of that is down to the man who has steered the ship for 31 years, overseeing a remarkable sequence of positive reforms.

"I can't think of anybody in the Olympic Movement who works so hard on behalf of their sport. But Klaus is much more than a hard worker – he is an intelligent strategist, an open-minded innovator and a statesmanlike leader.

"It has been a great pleasure to serve alongside Klaus in the Executive Board of UIPM for almost three decades. His successor as President will have a very

hard act to follow, but he has given them a strong platform with the sport poised to begin an exciting new era of growth."

Janusz Peciak OLY, UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport and Montreal 1976 Olympic champion, said: "My acquaintance with Klaus Schormann dates back to the late 1960s. Even then he became known as a very friendly, caring, good person, with great charisma and a sense of humour.

"I know him as a man who never gives up and always reaches his goal. It was thanks to his determination, political sense, great knowledge and professionalism that he saved the Modern Pentathlon several times.

"He was and he is our sailor, who always knew how to reach his destination. This has been the case in Barcelona, Atlanta, Athens, Sydney, Beijing and after, also now ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Games. We were and we still are very lucky to have a man like him around us. "Also, as a human being, President Klaus Schormann is able to find time for everyone, to listen and advise, no matter whether he is around a professional employee or a Prince or a President.

He has space for everyone and treats them equally. He has a great quality of optimism, he always finishes the job and – importantly – in a successful way.

"We need a person like him to be a supporter and adviser because no one in the Modern Pentathlon family has as much experience and knowledge of our sport and political skills to help us remain in the Olympic programme."

Yasser Hefny OLY, Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee, said: "In my role with the Athletes Committee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Klaus. I have always viewed him as a strong Union president who could lead his team to develop our sport to its fullest potential.

"He has managed to maintain our presence in the Olympic programme through his professional work and a solid network of relationships in the sports community. During my term, he has never hesitated to support the athletes and always put them at the heart of decision-making. I have learned a lot from him and looked up to him as a person with a big, compassionate heart, and as a strong, influential leader."

A lifelong contribution to Olympic sport...

- 1946: Born in Goettingen, Germany
- 1951: Started practising sport (fencing and gymnastics)
- 1959-1963: Youth leader for gymnastics, TSG Uslar 1863 sports club (elected at age 13)
- 1963-1974: Modern Pentathlon athlete at national, international level
- 1968-1976: Executive Board Member for Sport, Modern Pentathlon Federation of Hesse region (HVMF)
- 1976-: President, HVMF
- 1972: Deputy Competition Manager for Modern Pentathlon at Munich 1972 Olympic Games
- 1972-1983: Executive Board Member for Youth and Juniors, German Modern Pentathlon Federation (DVMF)
- 1984-2014: President, DVMF



- 1984-1988: Information Committee Member, Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon (UIPMB)
- 1984-: Member, TV-34 Council
- 1988: Council Member, UIPMB
- 1988-1993: Vice President Marketing Publication, UIPMB
- 1993-: President, Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM)
- 1994-1996: President, UIPMB

- 1994-: Member, IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage (previously known as Commission for Culture; Commission for Culture and Olympic Education).
- 2005: Awarded Honorary Doctorate in Sport Science by Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
- 2007-2010: Chairman, IOC Sub Commission for 1st Youth Olympic Games Singapore 2010
- 2007-2024: Executive Board Member, German Olympic Academy
- 2012: Awarded Olympic Order in Silver by IOC President Jacques Rogge
- 2018: Inaugurated to UIPM Hall of Fame
- 2018: Awarded Golden Cross of Merit 1st Class of the Federal Republic of Germany
- 2019: Received Award for Life Achievement from the Australian Olympic Committee



UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara



Kerenza Bryson (GBR) and Changwan Seo (KOR) celebrate victory in the second stop on the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup season in Ankara (TUR).

Bryson and Seo stand out as Turkish capital witnesses a Super Saturday to remember

Kerenza Bryson of Great Britain and Changwan Seo of Korea led from the front to claim individual gold on Super Saturday at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara.

In the Women's Final, 25-year-old Bryson (GBR) confirmed her status as one of the form athletes of Olympic year as she was joined on the podium by two next-generation starlets – 20-year Seungmin Seong (KOR) and 19-year-old Malak Ismail of Egypt.

The 1-2 was a repeat of UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia, where Bryson (GBR) and Seong (KOR) won their first-ever World Cup medals. This time it was the turn of Ismail (EGY) to sample that feeling as the world U19

champion again proved her mettle in the senior ranks having already become African champion in 2023.

A dramatic Men's Final took place after some dramatic weather in the Turkish capital, but there was no stopping the rock-steady Seo (KOR) from winning his first individual gold after three top-four finishes in 2023.

Behind him, the top two from Pentathlon World Cup Cairo claimed back-to-back medals and this time Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) – another 19-year-old with the world at his feet – came out on top in the internal rivalry with Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Ahmed Elgendy (EGY).

The competition concluded with Elena Potapenko and Pavel Ilyashenko claimed Mixed Relay gold for Kazakhstan as Egypt took silver and

Italy bronze.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "In the Women's Final we saw three different continents on the podium, and the athletes presented a level of performance that shows they have been preparing really well for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

"I thank everybody who has been involved in the organisation of this high-quality UIPM Pentathlon World Cup. The Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation is developing our sport with the support of the Minister for Sport in clubs and schools, and it was great to see so many children watching this competition in Ankara."

Medallists' reaction

Women's champion Bryson (GBR) said: "I am on a run at the moment and I feel like it's just positive vibes all round. I'm

really happy with how my prep is going this season.

"It couldn't really be going any better, to be honest, and I was really happy to start the Laser Run in 1st today because that's not comfortable for me. I'm not used to starting in 1st and I was definitely not in my safe space, so it was really good practice to deal with that pressure.

"I've just got to stay confident in myself and trust in the process and my coaches and the programme. If I can keep going and trusting in myself it will keep going in the right direction for the Games.

"Nothing will quite beat the World Championships in Bath when I had all my family and friends there, but I'm really grateful that my mum and partner came out to see me. It was a shame my dad couldn't come – I'd love for him to have watched me getting gold but he's doing some really important work. But I had great support out here from my family and my amazing team."

Silver medallist Seong (KOR) added: "It has been an amazing day. I feel my performances are good this season. In World Cup Cairo, the Final was a little bit bad but I tried to improve and I knew that my Laser Run could help me to win a medal today.

"I'm very happy and I will keep going. I am very young and my performance is good. I want to go to the Olympic Games."

Bronze medallist Ismail (EGY) said: "I'm



Women's Final action got underway with an exciting Riding discipline

feeling so happy, and this World Cup medal feels really different to the Youth World Championships in 2023 – the medal tastes different, definitely.

"I had a great battle with Salma, and also with Lucie. I knew I had a strong finish and even though I was very tired, I knew I could do it and pushed really hard."

Men's champion Seo (KOR) said: "Here in Ankara I always get good scores, and thankfully it happened again in this competition. I always felt that my Fencing skills were a little bit under-strength, but this time I got a good score in Fencing and that's why I was the best in the competition.

"I have got a gold medal now, and that's what I couldn't get before. That's why I believe in myself much more now, and I will do my best in the rest of the competitions."

Silver medallist Mohamed (EGY) added: "It's very amazing to have two medals in a row. It feels really great. After my first medal I said to myself that I needed to be consistently on the podium, and once again I am in 2nd place and to share it with Ahmed again feels so good.

"[Paris 2024] is a dream, I have been dreaming about it for four years. After Tokyo when Ahmed got the silver medal, I told myself that's my dream, I want to get an Olympic medal and make my family proud."

Bronze medallist Elgendy (EGY) said: "It was very exciting, very hard. In the Laser Run we were very close together. I'm very happy with bronze, and it tastes like gold because Fencing and two knockdowns in Riding. I'm satisfied and happy with the result, and I hope the season continues like the first two World Cups.

"I'm very happy for Moutaz, he is still young and still a junior and has a very good chance in the senior team. In fact, all the Egyptian team is very strong and unfortunately only two of us will go to the Olympics, but we hope the two who go to the Olympics can achieve two medals."

Women's Final – Riding

A high standard of Riding was on show, exemplified by the final rider of the



Women's Final action was fast-paced on the piste in the Fencing Bonus Round





The action stayed competitive in the pool during the Swimming discipline in Ankara.

round. Bryson (GBR) had to use all her equestrian skills to control a nervous horse that very nearly refused the sixth fence, only to complete the course without a blemish on the scoreboard. In total there were nine clear rounds, with Kim Sunwoo (KOR) only incurring one penalty point and only two athletes suffering damaging refusals.

Two nations achieved a rare 600-point maximum, as team-mates Alice Sotero (ITA) and Alessandra Frezza (ITA) and

Ismail (EGY) and Salma Abdelmaksoud (EGY) went clear, the latter having to compose herself after windy conditions caused disruption on the course.

Fencing

The left-handed Bryson (GBR) surged to the top of the leaderboard in the Fencing Ranking Round with the highest score of her senior career, 27 victories and eight defeats.

There was a 20-point gap to the next-

ranked athlete, Frezza (ITA, 23V/12D), while Uliana Batashova (AIN) stayed very much in contention in her comeback competition, scoring 22V/13D.

Marie Oteiza of France was the biggest mover of the Bonus Round, scoring three victories to improve her podium prospects and only beaten by Bryson (GBR), who notched the final bout to add another four points to her impressive tally.



As Kerenza Bryson (GBR) scorched to gold in the Women's Final, the chasing pack were tightly bunched during the Laser Run.



The serenity of the Riding discipline during the Women's Final earlier on Super Saturday was certainly not matched in a testing Men's Final.

Swimming

World No.1 Sotero (ITA) typically made gains in the pool, timing 2min 11.78sec to move from 10th to 6th and put pressure on the leaders. Seong (KOR) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) timed under 2:16 to consolidate their positions.

As her weakest discipline, Swimming tends to be where Bryson (GBR) loses ground and so it proved as the field took their chance to catch up.

That said, the leader retained a solid overall advantage as the athletes existed the pool, with Oteiza (FRA) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) trailing by 16 and 19 points respectively, followed closely by Kim (KOR), Frezza (ITA), Sotero (ITA) and Seong (KOR).

Laser Run

There was suspense early in the race as Bryson (GBR) took over 20sec to land her first five shots. However, Oteiza (FRA) failed to capitalise due to shooting problems of her own, and went down the leaderboard instead of up it.

The only person who kept any visible pressure on Bryson (GBR) was Seong

(KOR), who moved up to the silver medal position on the second 600m lap and held on to it with great conviction. But once Bryson (GBR) found her composure on the range, there was no stopping her and Seong (KOR) arrived at each shoot to find the leader already off and running. She finally won gold by an incredible margin of 26sec.

All the intrigue surrounded the battle for bronze, with Frezza (ITA), Batashova (AIN) and Lucie Hlavackova of Czech Republic getting involved at different times.

At the final shoot, it looked like being

a duel between two Egyptians as Abdelmaksoud (EGY) and Ismail (EGY) left the range together. But the precocious Ismail (EGY), having started 9th, proved to have too much stamina for the chasing pack and crossed for a joyous maiden bronze medal 3sec ahead of 4th-placed Hlavackova (CZE). The best Laser Run time of the day belonged to Mariya Gnedtchik (AIN), who gained a remarkable 10 places with her 11:11.70.

Men's Final – Riding

The serenity of the Women's Final Riding was not quite matched when the men entered the arena after a



Men's Final action from the Fencing Bonus Round in Turkey's capital city.



All eyes are on the targets — and the prizes — as the Men's Final is decided during the Laser Run at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara.



There was no holding back in the pool as the Men's finalists took part in the Swimming round.

delay due to bad weather. There were a lot more refusals resulting in four eliminations affecting athletes who may have been medal contenders, not least the final rider, Patrick Dogue of Germany.

Experienced rider Dogue (GER) seemed to have overcome a double refusal early in his round, only for his horse to refuse the ninth fence, resulting in elimination. This followed the exit of three others, including world No.2 Mohanad Shaban (EGY) who sustained injuries in a fall that left him unable to

continue in the competition.

At the other end of the spectrum, there were six maximum scores with Hernandez (MEX), Vlach (CZE), Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine and Mohamed (EGY) among those with flawless rounds.

Fencing

An imperious performance in the Ranking Round by 32-year-old Dogue (GER), rolling back the years with a 27V/8D that was on a different level to every other competitor except Seo

(KOR), who scored 25V/10D with a host of athletes on 21V/14D.

Elgendy (EGY) was the early mover in the Bonus Round, mastering slippery conditions to add eight points to his total with four successive wins, but Matteo Cicinelli (ITA) went two better with an impressive run of six. Finally Seo (KOR) consolidated his overall lead by winning the final two bouts.

Swimming

Myles Pillage (GBR) set the standard in the pool with a 1:59.11, edging himself into the overall top six, while there was nothing to separate team-mates Cicinelli (ITA) and European champion Giorgio Malan (ITA) as they both went under 2:02.

Another solid performance by 6th-fastest Seo (KOR) enabled him to build an overall lead of 23sec for the decisive Laser Run, with Mohamed (EGY) positioned narrowly ahead of Tymoshchenko (UKR) and Cicinelli (ITA).

Laser Run

Like Bryson (KOR) earlier, Seo (KOR) had a big lead to defend and if his one



Action from the opening Riding discipline during Sunday's Mixed Relay at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara.

faulty shoot (at the second visit to the range) caused him concern, but he didn't show it. Looking physically and mentally strong, an efficient Laser Run enabled him to cross that line in the premier spot for the first time.

Aged 19, Mohamed (EGY) proved that his career-first medal in Cairo (EGY) last month was no fluke, and nor was it due to home advantage. He shot brilliantly and withstood the pressure applied by his advancing team-mate Elgendy (EGY), who won an intriguing duel with Cicinelli (ITA) only when he stretched away on the final run.

Typically it was Martin Vlach (CZE) who set the best Laser Run time of the day, 10:18.80 enabling him to finish 5th ahead of Taishu Sato of Japan.

Mixed Relay: Multiple Olympians Potapenko and Ilyashenko lead from the front for Kazakhstan

Experience proved essential as Elena Potapenko and Pavel Ilyashenko

claimed Mixed Relay gold for Kazakhstan on the final day of UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara.

Having lost a lead when winning silver at Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, the Kazkh duo – veterans of a combined total of five Olympic Games – made no mistake this time and finished 9sec clear of the chasing pack.

Moutaz Mohamed of Egypt is one of the breakthrough athletes of the 2024 season and having earned two individual silver medals already, his sprint finish secured another one in collaboration with team-mate Amira Kandil.

There was also a first medal of the season for Italy, thanks to Aurora Tognetti and Federico Alessandro.

Medallists' reaction

Gold medallist Potapenko (KAZ) said: "It was a really lucky day for us. We had nice Fencing, then some problems in Riding, but we had a very big gap from

other teams. We did it, and very happy. "We had some difficulties in shooting today, but my first shoot was clear and that helped us. We are also good runners, so we had no problem.

"Of course we become more confident in every discipline today, and in the next competition we will be more comfortable in our individual.

"I want to say thank you to all our coaches, my family, Pavel's family and everybody – thank you for your support."

Silver medallist Kandil (EGY) said: "We started very good in the Fencing Ranking Round, and then we had some mistakes in the Riding. I was watching Moutaz and when his horse jumped, it was like a high jump and I was so scared for him.

"After that, we started Laser Run in 4th place and I knew I could take the 3rd place, but Moutaz then had a fantastic finish."



Teamwork is the order of the day in both the Fencing discipline for Mexico (above) and for the home team in Swimming (right)

Team-mate Mohamed (EGY) added: "In the Ranking Round, Amira did most of the work, she is a better fencer than me. In Riding I got a difficult horse, and coaches told me it would be a great training opportunity.

"In the warm-up it was good, I didn't have many problems, but in the second obstacle I got two refusals and I was about to fall. If we had another stop it would have meant elimination, but thankfully I could compose myself and the horse.

"In Laser Run, because Amira will participate in Budapest she had to save energy. After the finish, she was able to rest and when I started, I told myself I would not participate in Budapest so I had to make a great run.

"I pushed myself to the limits, because after four days before it was so hard, but I got this finish and I told myself I had to get second place. I will be the silver boy."



Bronze medallist Tognetti (ITA) said: "It's a really good day, and for me it was like revenge because I didn't reach the Women's Semi-finals. But with Federico I found the right emotion to take something good, and we are so satisfied and now we go to celebrate our medals with our coaches."

Team-mate Alessandro (ITA) added: "Unfortunately my shooting today was not good; in fact after the last shoot my coaches told me that Moutaz was

coming and I knew I had to run very, very fast. He is so strong, and in the last 200m he passed me.

"But I am happy about the competition, and happy for my coaches and my city and my country."

Riding

Malgorzata Karbownik & Daniel Lawrynowicz of Poland and Italy (Tognetti/Alessandro) rode well and escaped any significant damage,



scoring 286 and 284 respectively out of a possible 300.

As the final riders, all the pressure was on Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) and three knockdowns plus time penalties for a score of 273 limited their ability to stretch clear of the opposition.

It was a tough round for Egypt (Kandil/Mohamed) with both riders experiencing refusals, but they managed to survive despite incurring 52 penalty points.

Fencing

There was no doubting the identity of the king of the queen of the piste as Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) scored an impressive 31 victories in the Ranking Round, seven more than Egypt (Kandil/Mohamed) and eight more than Italy (Tognetti/Alessandro).

In the Bonus Round, Mariana Arceo & Manuel Padilla of Mexico added four points to their tally but having failed to start Riding, they were already out of medal contention. Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) defeated Egypt (Kandil/Mohamed) in the final bout to extend their overall lead by four points.

Swimming

Egypt (Kandil/Mohamed) were quickest across the eight laps of the 25m pool in the Pentathlon Arena, timing 1min 58.20sec, closely pursued by Italy (Tognetti/Alessandro) who timed exactly 2min.

This enabled both to gain on the overall lead of Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko), who took a 20sec head start into the Laser Run with Italy (Tognetti/Alessandro) enjoying a 24sec cushion ahead of Poland (Karbownik/Lawrynowicz).

Laser Run

Potapenko (KAZ) extended her lead from 20sec to more than 30sec with an excellent first shoot, while Tognetti (ITA) lost a little ground to her pursuers. Kandil (EGY) started to take advantage with a couple of solid shoots.

Potapenko (KAZ) handed over to



Ilyashenko and Potapenko savour golden glory for Kazakhstan in the Mixed Relay in Ankara (TUR).

Ilyashenko (KAZ) with a 32sec cushion and the ideal platform for gold, but Tognetti (ITA) finally extended her lead over Kandil (EGY) so that Alessandro (ITA) inherited a 22sec lead in 2nd place.

The first men's shoot saw a remarkable change, as Ilyashenko (KAZ) got stuck on his final delivery and took 33sec to get away, while Alessandro (ITA) took 20sec and Mohamed (EGY) bolted away in 8sec.

Finally, Ilyashenko (KAZ) eased his nerves with an 18sec shoot that sealed gold on his second visit to the range, enabling him to cross the line with 9sec to spare.

The race for silver gained intrigue as Mohamed (EGY) made a little ground on Alessandro (ITA) in his second shoot, and when the final run entered the woods, he took his chance and sprinted past his rival to secure a second silver medal of the weekend and third of the season.



UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest



Mariya Gnedtchik (AIN) and Mohamed Elgendy (EGY) savour their moments of glory as they took home victory in the Women's and Men's Final respectively

First taste of gold is sweet for Gnedtchik (AIN) and Elgendy (EGY) as Budapest toasts a new generation

Next-generation athletes Mariya Gnedtchik (AIN) and Mohamed Elgendy of Egypt lit up Super Saturday with thrilling maiden victories in front of a packed crowd at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest.

Gnedtchik (AIN), 20, erased a 28sec deficit in Laser Run to grasp control of the Women's Final, the independent neutral athlete securing her first medal in a major UIPM competition and taking a massive stride towards qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

A second consecutive silver was confirmation of the form of another precocious athlete, Seungmin Seong of Korea, while there was relief and redemption for two-time world champion Elena Micheli of Italy as she came from behind to win her first

medal of the Olympic season.

The Men's Final was even more eventful as Laser Run specialists Elgendy (EGY) and Balazs Szep of Hungary emerged from the pack to stun the leaders and win gold and silver respectively in an epic finish, with Mohanad Shaban (EGY) adding yet another medal for the North African powerhouse nation.

Egypt has now won six of the nine medals in Men's Finals during this Pentathlon World Cup season, a treasure chest of glory shared by four athletes – and a fifth team member, Ahmed Hamed (EGY), finished in 4th place today as Egypt and Hungary filled the entire top six.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "Once again in the individual finals of UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Budapest we saw that Modern Pentathlon is a truly global competition with medallists coming once again

from Korea and Egypt, as well as Italy and Hungary and the neutral flag.

"With 44 nations taking part in Budapest, we saw some exceptional performances from those on the podium and it was also incredible to see the commitment of athletes finishing 4th, 5th, 6th and also further back – they know they can raise points to support their qualification for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

"We have a fantastic facility here in Budapest and the organisers selected horses at a very high level, which is needed for the Riding presentation at the Olympic Games in Versailles. I thank the organising committee for everything they have done under the leadership of a new President, former world champion Gabor Balogh.

Medallists' reaction

Women's silver medallist Seong (KOR) said: "In World Cup Ankara I won a silver



The Riding discipline provided lots of excitement in the Women's Final in Budapest (HUN).

medal and again in this competition I won a silver medal. I'm very happy but there was a little bit missing from my shooting.

"I will try to win the next competition. It's a very difficult season and physically I'm very tired, but I will go back to Korea and rest before the next World Cup, the World Cup Final and the World Championships."

Bronze medallist Micheli (ITA) said: "It has been quite a difficult period, I came through an injury so it has been tough. All of us in this competition were near to the podium zone, so it was quite hard to imagine what it would be like to start in 5th place with such great athletes behind me and in front of me.

"It was a surprise for me to end up in 3rd, so I'm really happy. Our sport is complicated with lots of different probabilities, but I can feel right now that I'm in the place where I belong and where I want to stay.

"I'm really happy and I need to thank all my coaches and my staff, who are always behind me and helping me."

Men's champion Elgendy (EGY) said: "I'm so happy about this result. I have been training for such a moment.

"In the last two World Cups I was not able to get a podium due to the Riding and a mistake in the shooting. I am so happy with this medal.

"At the beginning of the Laser Run I didn't consider that I could get gold, or even a medal, because it was so hard during the race. I was closing and closing, so I'm so happy that I did it – the last 600m was so hard for me.

"I'm sharing a room with my brother Ahmed and I'm so happy to get a medal. It's my first medal in a World Cup and it's a gold medal. I was just waiting for this moment for two years, and finally I get it."

Silver medallist Szep (HUN) added: "My shooting was perfect, I think I had three mistakes so it was very good for me. The running was very hard so I'm very happy.

"It's my third time competing here in Hungary and the first two were very bad. I was hoping that the third would be good and it's the best."

Bronze medallist Shaban (EGY) said: "It was a hard race today. The Egyptian team has so much competition with each other, and the Hungarians are so strong.

"It was a hard race in the Laser Run, and until the last race we didn't know who would win the competition.

"Back to the podium but I don't feel happy, because I can perform better than I did in this race. Maybe the shooting was too bad today, and maybe in the next competition it will be all good."

Women's Final – Riding

With a challenging course and a time limit of 1min 2sec, athletes knew they were facing a serious test of their equestrian skills and Micheli (ITA) was the first to pass the examination, going clear with only one time penalty for a score of 299.

Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye and Blanka Bauer (HUN) also went clear, and Elodie Clouvel of France incurred one knockdown but became the first to



go under 1:02. In front of her home crowd, Michelle Gulyas (HUN) looked tense but escaped major damage with a 284.

The last two riders had the opportunity to distance themselves from the pack, but Gnedtchik (AIN) dropped 21 points and Seong (KOR) 15, seemingly leaving the competition wide open.

Fencing

With an impressive 26 victories and eight defeats, two 20-year-old athletes – Seong (KOR) and Gnedtchik (AIN) – demonstrated their competitive maturity in the Fencing Ranking Round.

With a score of 24V/10D, Gulyas (HUN) made sure to keep pressure on the leaders, while Clouvel (FRA) and Ozyuksel (TUR) also went over the 20V mark.

The top performer in the Bonus Round was Olivia Green of Great Britain, but there were no major gains in the top half of the leaderboard and Seong (KOR) extended her overall lead slightly by winning the four available points for defeating Gnedtchik (AIN) in the final



Elena Micheli (ITA) celebrates a victory in the Fencing Bonus Round during the Women's Final

bout.

Swimming

The race to the podium became even more intriguing after Swimming, with Gulyas (HUN), Clouvel (FRA) and Micheli (ITA) moving into 2nd, 3rd and 5th place overall respectively and Gnedtchik (AIN) losing a lot of ground with the slowest swim of the day.

Gulyas (HUN) was fastest in the

pool by 2sec, timing 2:09.12 ahead of Micheli (ITA) in 2:11.19. But Seong (KOR) refused to let the gap widen too much, preserving a 7sec overall lead to take into Laser Run.

Laser Run

Seong (KOR) went out hard on the opening lap to extend her lead to 14sec, followed by a solid shoot, but Gnedtchik (AIN) was even quicker and immediately looked decisive on the



The action stayed competitive in the pool during the Swimming discipline in the Hungarian capital city.



The race to – and from – the shooting range was frenetic as the prizes were decided in the Laser Run during the Women's Final.

range, moving from 8th into a battle for 3rd with Veronika Novotna of Czech Republic.

By the second shoot, Gnedtchik (AIN) and Gulyas (HUN) and their contrasting body language indicated which of the two was destined to seize the day. Meanwhile an 11sec shoot was a signal of intent from Micheli (ITA), who had Valeriya Permykina of Ukraine for company on the third lap.

This was where Gnedtchik (AIN) dropped Gulyas (HUN) and started to hunt down the leader, continuing to chew into the 28sec margin that had separated them at the start. At the third shoot, Seong (KOR) lost 5sec to the irrepressible Gnedtchik (AIN), who executed the decisive overtake halfway through the fourth lap and never looked back.

A 21sec final shoot for Seong (KOR) left her with no option but to secure silver, which she did despite all the top athletes swarming around behind her. Micheli (ITA) overtook Permykina (UKR) and briefly lost hold of bronze at the

final shoot, only to find the stamina to bite back and secure that precious first medal of the season.

The big movers on the last lap were Ozyuksel (TUR) and world Laser Run record-holder Bauer (HUN), who finished 5th and 6th respectively as Gulyas (HUN) ran out of steam. Gnedtchik (AIN) was almost 10sec faster around the course than anyone else, timing 11:01.30 for an unforgettable victory that announced her arrival as a breakthrough contender for major honours this season.

Men's Final – Riding

Hamed (EGY) was the first rider to escape with only one blemish on his scorecard, registering a 293 that enabled him to climb up the leaderboard as others struggled, and three refusals resulted in elimination for Yuriy Kovalchuk (UKR).

There were no other eliminations, but two team-mates suffered what looked like terminal damage to their medal hopes as Changwan Seo (KOR) and the final rider, Woongtae Jun (KOR),

dropped 54 and 50 points respectively.

Bence Demeter (HUN) took full advantage, emulating the performance of Micheli (ITA) in the morning with a majestic 299 that delighted a capacity home crowd. Pavels Svecovs of Latvia and Shaban (EGY) got round with only one knockdown and Jan Kuf (CZE) incurred only nine time penalties, while Valentin Prades (FRA) and Elgendy (EGY) stayed in touch with 286 and 285.

Fencing

After a slow start to the season, Jun (KOR) demonstrated his Fencing prowess with a standout 25V/10D in the Ranking Round, with Svecovs (LAT) in close pursuit with only one touch fewer.

Prades (FRA), Seo (KOR) and Demeter (HUN) refused to let the top two get carried away as they each posted 23 victories.

Leo Bories (FRA) advanced during the Bonus Round with three victories for six valuable points, and in the top



Action from the Riding (above) and the Fencing Bonus Round (inset left) during the Men's Final at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest.

was won and lost.

Demeter (HUN) missed his first two shots and suddenly the pack was upon him, green lights flashing as he sank into a blur of red. Szep (HUN) nailed his five shots in less than 7sec and Elgendy (HUN) was barely a second slower as the race for gold became a new duel.

And what a duel it was, the crowd switching their emotion from Demeter (HUN) to Szep (HUN) as they realised a home winner was still very much a possibility. Having kept his younger rival company for 500m of the final 600m, the extremity of a 9:48 Laser Run finally caught up with the home favourite and Elgendy (EGY), timing 9:58, screamed in delight as he took the tape at the finish line.

Magical Mexico roar to dominant Mixed Relay victory for second gold of the season

Mayan Oliver and Manuel Padilla delivered a second Mixed Relay gold of the season for Mexico as the final day of UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World

half of the draw the main mover was Demeter (HUN), whose three wins eclipsed two each for Shaban (EGY) and Svecovs (LAT).

Swimming

European champion Giorgio Malan (ITA) set the standard in the pool with an excellent 1:58.74, while Csaba Bohm (HUN) and Svecovs (LAT) also crept under the 2min mark while Jun (KOR), Shaban (EGY) and Szep (HUN) made sure they didn't concede too many points to the fastest swimmers.

It all meant that Svecovs (LAT) started the Laser Run 5sec ahead of Demeter (HUN), with Shaban (EGY) a further 13sec adrift.

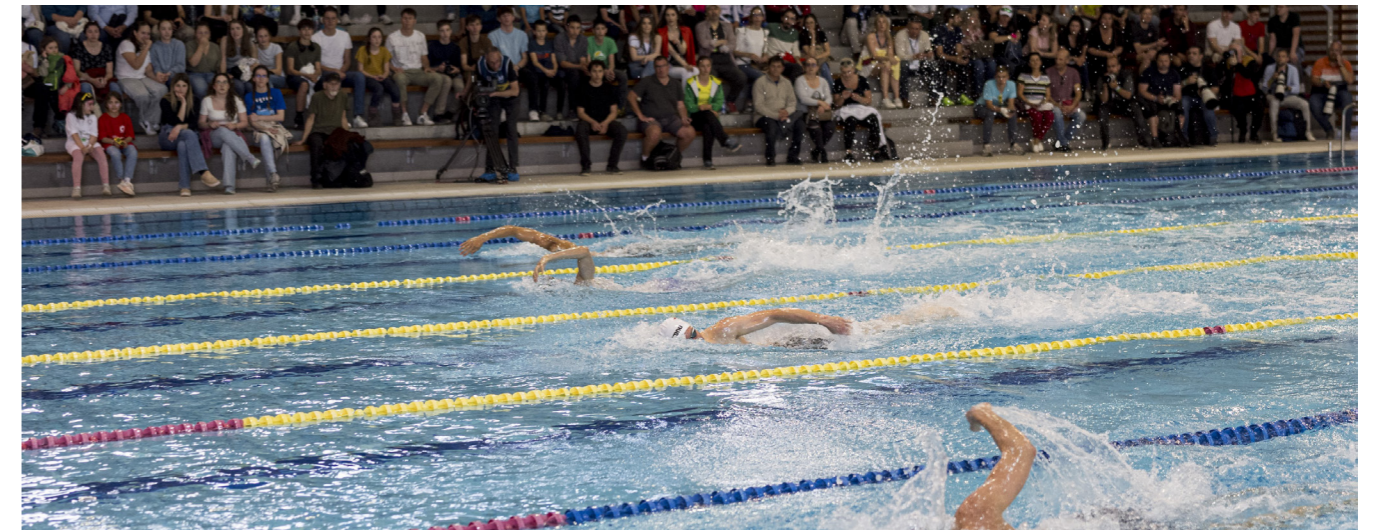
Laser Run

For most of the race it appeared that

Demeter (HUN) was, if not dominant, at least in control of the podium storyline. He shot smoothly and carefully paced his laps, moving past Svecovs (LAT) on the second 600m run and keeping Shaban (EGY) at bay as Malan (ITA) made a move into 4th.

As early as the second shoot it was apparent that Elgendy (EGY) and Szep (HUN) – having started 38sec and 50sec respectively behind Demeter (HUN) – were going to have a say, as they led a pack in pursuit of the top three.

As Svecovs (LAT) dropped back, Demeter (HUN) continued to look unflappable, leaving Shaban (EGY) and Elgendy (EGY) to take turns in 2nd position on the 4th run. But the final shoot, as so often, was where the race



The action stayed competitive in the pool during the Swimming discipline in Budapest

Cup Budapest witnessed a dominant victory.

The stellar win left the chasing pack fighting for silver and bronze and it was the France duo of Louison Cazaly and Brice Loubet who won that battle ahead of Hungary, with Blanka Guzi and Gergely Regos ensuring the final medal of a gripping week went to the host nation.

With Mariana Arceo and Duilio Carrillo claiming gold in the season-opening competition in Cairo last month, Oliver and Padilla (MEX) matched their teammates' consistency across all disciplines with an emphatic triumph. It was particularly sweet for Padilla

(MEX) after cruel luck struck during the closing stages of last year's Mixed Relay in the Hungarian capital when his feet got tangled in an equipment bag after the final shoot and gold slipped away.

Mexico's win ensured that the week ended with three different continents savouring gold while a total of seven nations were among the medals.

Medallists' reaction

Gold medallist Padilla (MEX) said: "This was my revenge! Last year I was also fighting for the gold, I think with the Koreans and then the bag thing happened. So I'm very happy for today. It's my first gold medal in relays so it's a very good day."

Teammate Oliver (MEX) added: "I am very happy for this result. Today was a good day. The thing with Manuel is he is so good and today was a great result."

Silver medallist Cazaly (FRA) said: "It was a great competition and a really great day. I'm very glad to do the relay with Loubet because he is a really great friend for me, a big training partner. He has more experience than me and I was glad to achieve that with him today."

Her teammate Loubet (FRA) added: "All the day was a team effort. She shoots well. I run well. All day we balanced well as a team. We're very happy to be back on the podium, especially together like Louison said. It was a tough day but we are happy."

Bronze medallist Guzi (HUN) said: "I think we are really happy about this result because I hadn't imagined before today that we could reach a bronze medal so that was a nice surprise for me. The crowd was amazing, I heard them during the Running, Shooting and Riding. It's always a pleasure to race in front of them."

Her teammate Regos (HUN) added: "This was really, really good. I enjoy competing with Blanka, it's a great opportunity for us. Especially for me



Egypt's pedigree was clear at the front of the field during the decisive moments of the Laser Run.



Gold medallists Mexico topped the Mixed Relay podium at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest, France taking silver and bronze going to Hungary

as I had fallen down the national team this year so it was great chance to compete in front of my home and in front of my family.

Riding

After a Super Saturday that had witnessed some exemplary performances on horseback the challenge had been laid down for Sunday's competitors to follow suit. The vast majority were able to meet that challenge with 14 of the 15 teams making it safely around.

The pedigree was quickly rising to the top with Mexico (Oliver/Padilla) top scorers, dropping just a single point to add 299 to their tally. Looking to add yet more hardware to their clutch of medals from the season, Egypt (Salma Abdelmaksoud & Ahmed Elgendy) moved up in the rankings after scoring 297 points with Hungary (Guzi/Regos), Poland (Malgorzata Karbownik & Tamil Kasperczak) and France (Cazaly/Loubet) all scoring 293.

The Ukraine team of Iryna Kubrak and Oleksandr Tovkai had entered the Riding in real contention after an impressive Fencing Ranking Round score but saw their medal hopes

dashed when they were the only team to be suffer elimination.

Fencing

After a 2023 season in which they made the Mixed Relay podiums their own, Mexico (Oliver/Padilla) have been focusing on building on that this year and got their Budapest challenge off to the perfect start by dominating the Fencing Ranking Round as they led with 20 victories.

Ukraine (Kubrak/Tovkai) were next best with 18 victories, two more than



Egypt's Ahmed Elgendy gets things underway during the Mixed Relay's Riding discipline.

the team from the host nation (Guzi/Regos).

In the Bonus Round it was Marlena Jawaaid and Daniel Steinbock of Sweden who made a red-hot run, racking up an extra eight points on the piste. However Mexico (Oliver/Padilla) had the last laugh as they managed to stretch their now daunting lead at the head of proceedings.

Swimming

If there was to be one discipline where the other contenders could target the leading duo it was in the pool where Mexican prowess isn't as pronounced.

It was Poland (Karbownik/Kasperczak) who made up the most ground with a rapid time of 1:57.11 fully eight seconds faster than Mexico (Oliver/Padilla). Hungary (Guzi/Regos) responded to the raucous Sunday atmosphere in their capital city to cement their place in second with a time of 1:57.73

The truly global appeal of Mixed Relay was reflected in Sunday's field and it was one of the more far-flung teams who shone brightest in the pool with Australia (Genevieve Janse van Rensburg & Rhys Lanskey), fastest in a

blistering 1:56.20.

Laser Run

While the lead of Mexico (Oliver/Padilla) wasn't as pronounced as before the Swimming, the experienced duo did enter the decisive Laser Run with a formidable 21-second lead on the field. However just 10 seconds separated the next four contenders: Hungary (Guzi/Regos), Poland (Karbownik/Kasperczak), France (Cazaly/Loubet) and Italy (Maria Lea Lopez & Giorgio Micheli). Sweden (Steinbock/Jawaid) and the classy duo from Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Elgendy) were just about within striking distance.

With the sun setting on a gorgeous Budapest weekend, Oliver (MEX) set off in determined fashion but Guzi (HUN) ran hard and was hot on the leaders' tail making up six seconds before the first visit to the range while the eagle eye of Cazaly (FRA) was on show as she completed two rapid shoots, her second taking just over six seconds.

At the changeover Mexico (Oliver/Padilla) had actually extended their lead to 25 seconds with Padilla (MEX), a renowned runner, setting off towards glory and underlining that with an 8.64-second first shoot. Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Elgendy) had indeed sliced through the field to threaten what was now a captivating silver medal battle between Hungary (Guzi/Regos) and France (Cazaly/Loubet).

As Padilla (MEX) completed another brilliant final shoot he wheeled away with one arm in the air knowing that glory had been assured. Behind him it was Loubet (FRA) who found an extra gear to stretch away from Regos (HUN) and claim silver. Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Elgendy) came in a gritty fourth with Poland (Karbownik/Kasperczak) fifth and Italy (Lopez/Micheli) sixth

Among some very impressive Laser Run performances further down the field, Japan (Misaki Uchida & Ryo Matsumoto) stood out, clocking the fifth-fastest time of the day in 12:43.80 with the United States (Phaelen French & Tristen Bell) sixth-fastest.



The team from Ukraine celebrate a victory during the Fencing Bonus Round



The changeover is watched by packed Sunday afternoon galleries in the Hungarian capital.



By the Laser Run changeover Mayan Oliver and Manuel Padilla (MEX) were racing towards gold.

VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

Olympic Games Countdown: Part XIII

Leading off...

Young talent is in bloom but lessons of the past point to more mature champions

As one of the world's most timeless cities, Paris is unlikely to judge anyone by their age. A place that magically mixes centuries of history with cutting-edge modernity, all are welcome. And this summer that's likely to be particularly true as the city welcomes the world for its Summer Olympic Games.

But when it comes to generation games, these are interesting times in Modern Pentathlon. The third instalment of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup season served up an exciting flash forward to the future when Mariya Gnedtchik (AIN) and Mohamed Elgendy of Egypt stormed to the top of the podium.

Just a couple of weeks after UIPM News had sat down with the great Laura Asadauskaite to discuss her hopes of winning a third Olympic medal at 40, here were two winners with a combined age of 41. Gnedtchik is 20 and Elgendy (EGY) is just a year older.

In any year their victories on the same Super Saturday would be noteworthy but in Olympic year, ever more so, and it begs a question: could the Palace of Versailles see the coronation of young pentathlon royalty in August when Olympic medals are decided?

A place such as Paris would suggest that it's worth referring to the history books for guidance. Since the turn of



A delighted Mariya Gnedtchik (AIN) celebrates victory at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest.

the century at the Sydney Olympics there have been 12 gold medalists in Modern Pentathlon and the ages of those winners follow some pretty telling patterns.

There are two outliers: reigning women's gold medalist Kate French of Great Britain is the only one to win in her thirties, aged 30 when she triumphed in Tokyo; Lena Schoenborn of Germany, meanwhile, is by a distance the youngest having claimed gold at Athens 2004 as a 22-year-old. Otherwise the winners are all aged in their mid-to-late 20s with half of the medalists aged either 27 or 28 at their

moment of glory. The sweet spot, the data suggests, is 26.8.

As fate may have it, some of the Paris contenders fall right into that category: men's world No.2 Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico turned 26 in January while, on the women's side, Rebecca Langrehr (GER) celebrated reaching 26 last month and world No.3 Kerenza Bryson will hit that magic number just a couple of weeks after the Games.

As Paris has proved time and again, it is a city for all ages and this summer it will crunch some new numbers of its own.



With the countdown clock hitting double digits, the spectacular opening to the Paris 2024 Games is edging ever closer.

> Paris Pointer

IOC President remains confident that the Seine can shine

April marked another small but significant step on the countdown to Paris 2024: the clock ticked into the single digits. With just over 80 days to go, the final preparations have ramped up further still.

The flowing heart of the city, the River Seine is due to play a starring role in getting the Games going with organisers having planned a spectacular Opening Ceremony along its waters. In spite of some debate over whether security concerns could prompt a change of plan, IOC President Dr Thomas Bach has assured athletes and fans that he is confident the Seine can safely shine.

"The very meticulous, very professional approach (from French authorities) gives us all the confidence that we can have this opening ceremony on the River Seine and that this opening ceremony will be iconic, will be unforgettable for the athletes, and

everybody will be safe and secure," President Bach told AFP.

After the Tokyo Games were first postponed to 2021 and then played out to empty stadiums due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IOC President is excited to restore the glory of the Games after refusing to cancel Tokyo 2020.

"The Olympic Games and the Olympic values would have disappeared from the world's attention for eight years. Eight years is too long a time and so then it would have been very difficult to revive the Olympic spirit," Bach said.

Numbers game

1,000 The number of vessels that will sail into the port of Marseille on May 8 to welcome the Olympic Torch to French soil ahead of the Games where French swimmer Florent Manaudou will be the first torch bearer.

Qualification latest

With the first three legs of the UIPM 2024 World Cup season already in

the books, the jostling for the final 28 qualification spots for Paris 2024 is beginning to approach its crunch time.

While we know that 44 of the 72 quota places at this summer's Games have been claimed, the plot is thickening.

Here's a reminder of who has qualified for the Games already: Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czech Republic, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Ecuador and the International Athletes Team (EAI). Men: Egypt (2), Mexico (2), Italy, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Australia, Ecuador, Cuba, Argentina and EAI.

Six places are on offer at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships in June but there are 12 more through the UIPM rankings which makes the World Cup season so key for those targeting rankings points.

Full details of the Paris 2024 qualification process can be found at uipmworld.org/olympic-games.





Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Elodie Clouvel (FRA) is one of the stars of the first episode of A Passion For Paris

A Passion For Paris: Episode 1 now available to watch on UIPM YouTube

UIPM has released the first episode of a new TV show entitled A Passion For Paris, shining a spotlight on elite pentathletes as they prepare for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The show merges athlete profile interviews with competition coverage and the first episode revolves around the season-opening UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

It features two-time world champion Elena Micheli of Italy, Rio 2016 silver medallist Elodie Clouvel of France, world silver medallist Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico and emerging talent Changwan Seo of Korea.

Highlights of the first episode of the six-part series include:

- Micheli (ITA) revealing her love for the sport on the eve of the competition. "It's like a harmony. It's something that you must love because it's captivating, it's fascinating, it's entertaining. I fell in love with it since the first moment."
- Micheli (ITA) suffering the shock setback of Semi-final elimination, and tearfully reflecting: "Definitely one of the most difficult days until now. It was really hard today ... I just need to be a bit more patient, and calm."
- Clouvel (FRA) opening up on the unique pros and cons of preparing for a home Olympics. "It's a little girl's dream to participate in the Olympic Games in her country, it's unique in the world. But it's about being prepared: psychologically, mentally ... because there's a lot of pressure."
- Hernandez (MEX) on following in the footsteps of his elder sibling, who put Mexican pentathlon on the map with bronze at Rio 2016. "My brother Ismael motivates me every day to be a better person, he makes me feel that everything is possible, he reminds me that you have to work day after day for that dream."
- Seo (KOR) on the sky-high standards in place in one of pentathlon's top-performing teams. "As a person, I am always serious and purposeful. As an athlete, I'm addicted to exercise and I train diligently."

UIPM Athletes Committee Chair, Yasser Hefny OLY, commented: "I am thrilled



about this latest innovation from the UIPM media team, who work hard all year to raise the profile of pentathletes worldwide. The first episode of A Passion For Paris contains some intriguing interviews and dramatic moments that help audiences get closer to the icons of our sport."

A Passion For Paris: Episode 1 has been released to TV networks worldwide and is available to watch free on UIPM's YouTube channel.

Episodes 2 and 3 were filmed during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cups in Ankara (April 16-21) and Budapest (April 23-28) and will be released in due course.

Live coverage of all Semi-finals and Finals in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup and World Championships is available to subscribers on UIPM TV where annual packages cost €14.99.

A poster (right) hails the arrival of A Passion For Paris: Episode 1 on UIPM YouTube, while Mohanad Shaban (EGY) takes on one of his team-mates in the Fencing Bonus Round during UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo



Thinking deeper: Meet Valentin Belaud

In the latest in our 'Pentathlon Personalities' series, the sport's modern-day French philosopher reflects on the dream homecoming he is planning in Versailles...

For many of those at the elite end of Modern Pentathlon, the thought of walking through the golden Royal Gates at the Palace of Versailles this summer is a once-in-a-lifetime dream. For Valentin Belaud, however, that walk used to be a once-a-week kinda thing.

France's two-time world champion spent his over-energised childhood in the opulent shadows of the Chateau, growing up in the commune of Le Chesney, just a couple of kilometres from Versailles' gates. You could call this summer's Olympic Games a homecoming and you'd be right. You could also call it a life coming full circle and you'd be correct too.

Belaud's place in the Games isn't yet assured, of course. The host nation boasts the kind of strength in depth of talent that leaves rival nations envious. But the 31-year-old is one of the sport's most open-minded as well as deepest thinkers. So when you ask him to wonder about what this summer could mean, he's happy to reflect on how it all started in Versailles.

"I was born in Le Chesnay. My father was a republican guardsman, so I was born more or less at the republican guard, which is about 5km to the gardens of Chateau de Versailles," he explains. "I have a big brother and a little sister. I quickly wanted to become stronger than my big brother. I naturally became a competitor. For me, to do things at the surface is uninteresting, I get bored. I like to delve deep into what I do, get to the bottom of things. It's what drove me to sports.

"I was also hyperactive, turbulent. There is a strong moment, when I was around 10-11 years old. At school it was not going well, because I was unruly, too active. A hyperactive child in a French



Two-time world champion Valentin Belaud (FRA) is targeting Olympic glory on home soil.

school system can be difficult. My parents got called in, and the teachers at the time told them to take me to see a psychologist. And my father's reaction was to say I had too much energy and they would just make me do more sports. It was a great move, a green light for me to do more sports.

"It may have seemed a lot for a young kid, doing judo and Modern Pentathlon at the same time, but that's what I needed to channel my energy. I am thirsty for novelty, being able to learn constantly, try new things, and be in a rich environment where I can keep learning. So this is how I grew up, and the day I heard the news about Olympics at Paris and Versailles, it was something."

It's not just the familiar turf that has the potential to make it a poignant August for Belaud. The hooves which thunder through the turf will be familiar too.

"Even more important [is] the Riding

discipline taking place there for the last time," he adds. "I grew up in the republican guard, and horses have always been something that calmed me. Some of the horses that will be selected for Pentathlon will come from the guard. It will be one last dance, maybe with a horse from the republican guard. It's a nice story for me and it's motivating. Writing a book will not help me win the competition, but it's definitely a page that closes a chapter.

"It's also a lot of pride. I remember when I was young and people would tell me I that I wouldn't succeed in life because I was weird, I was hyperactive and I couldn't calm down. I'm proud to move forward in my life, in my process, and that people who know me for a long time, the real me, can see this beautiful loop. My father will retire this summer, as the horses do in our sport, in Versailles, and it's a funny thing. It's not something I've chosen, it's how life works, but I like it."



Valentin Belaud with partner Elodie Clouvel (above), and with family who live near Versailles (inset).

How life works is something which fascinates Belaud. How this life that he has chosen intertwines with the world around him is a constant curiosity. And in this Olympic year he is seeking out inspiration wherever he can find it — but distraction too. After opening the season with a trademark top-10 place at UIPM 2024 World Cup Cairo, a training camp trip to South Africa became something different after he came down with a sickness. Instead of hectic high-altitude work, Belaud explored recovery.

"Having times like these when your body tells you 'no, you have to adapt', is difficult to accept. Sometimes passionate people tend to say 'I can push a bit more', like a running car going low on gas and we still go a bit, you get trapped and end up with a broken car on the side of the road. For me the goal in this Olympic year is to not get broken down, but rather listen to these signs."

In ultra-competitive elite sport, some athletes may have been inclined to keep the sickness and setback under wraps. That's not Belaud's way. On social media he is a wide open book and outlined the developments in Pretoria.

"When I was young, with coaches I had at the time, I used to believe you had to enter the competition as 'Superman', strong and showing that you are tough even if you're down. It took me some time to realize that it's not what suits me best," says Belaud, who was first crowned world champion in Moscow in 2016 before repeating the feat in Budapest in 2019. "This is part of life for everyone, not just athletes, and sharing it is a pleasure. It's also a shared vision with my sponsors. I feel stronger being able to share these things."

If Belaud's life is very much about sharing, it is Elodie Clouvel who undoubtedly gets the lion's share of it all. It's corny to call the pair Modern Pentathlon's golden couple but in an Olympic year of piqued interest, their story of romance and triumph has been irresistible for media in the host nation. By now, they're used to the spotlight.

"We've known each other for a very long time, we met 18 or 20 years ago. Nine years ago we got together, kind of naturally. We had personalities that connected. She is my support number one. She is there for my victories,

of course, but she is there most importantly every day," Belaud says. "When I doubt, when I'm not okay, she's there for me and I'm there for her. We are a team together. I will take the worst example — let's say I don't make it to Paris Olympics, I hope it doesn't happen but if that does, she will be there.

"What's funny too is that she is kind of my muse; an inspiration. I remember in 2016 she was world silver medallist, and when we got back to the hotel in the evening, she just winked at me and said 'well, you know what to do if you want to beat me'. Not in a competitor way, but more in a 'go for it' way. She has that heritage, in her mind everything is possible. She was the first French athlete to win an [individual] Olympic medal. I have been doing Modern Pentathlon in France for a long time. We used to train, hoping to succeed, but we wouldn't go beyond that point and reach those medals. She brought that. When Elodie arrived, she proved that everything was possible."

There is so much more to discuss and Belaud doesn't shirk any topic. But in what could be the most consequential few months of his career, time is a precious commodity. Before he gets up to leave, he stops and ponders again.

"When I tell my story, I try to think also to be careful not to tell a tale," he says. "We are in real life. I'm not a movie producer. You need to create your reality. It may sound like it's meant for me. Of course I want it, I want to go to Paris and win, but I am also conscious. I stop myself and think 'go easy. Go every day, step by step'. It will be this story or another. We will see!"

PARA SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Opportunities in Egypt and Spain



The three-sport UIPM Para World Championships in October will help to recognise the strength of the Para Pentathlon movement in Egypt

Port Said (EGY) to host three Para World Championships events

A three-sport UIPM Para World Championships will be a special highlight of the UIPM 2024 Biathlon-Triathlon World Championships in Port Said (EGY) from October 10-13.

Recognising the strength of the Para Pentathlon movement in Egypt, and the potential to create a truly inclusive celebration of para sport during this competition, three World Championship medals will be on offer to participants across Para Laser Run, Para Biathlon and Para Triathlon.

As the three events together have already proved a hit with para athletes

and teams from around the world, the October competition is expected to attract record numbers.

It continues to be a busy year for the UIPM Para Sports movement, with a range of opportunities around the world.

From May 31 to June 2, there will be a three-day UIPM Classifier Education Training course running alongside the European Invitational Para Laser Run 2024 in Oviedo (ESP).

The aim of the course is to foster a vibrant classifier community, connecting potential classifiers and enabling them to learn more about Para Pentathlon, add to their skill set and

contribute to the growth of the sport with the opportunity to classify athletes onsite. Any athletes with physical, intellectual or visual impairments who would like to take part in the European Invitational Para Laser Run from June 1-2 are invited to sign up.

These opportunities are provided by Liverpool John Moores University in Great Britain, in partnership with the UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission. Contact the course leader for more information by emailing ukparapent@ljmu.ac.uk

The Para Commission has also confirmed the inclusion of Para Laser Run heats in the European Biathlon-Triathlon and Laser Run Championships



Solidarity is at the heart of the UIPM Para Sports movement, with a UIPM Classifier Training course set to run alongside an invitational in Oviedo (ESP).

in Funchal (POR) on July 6, as well as the inclusion of Para heats in the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour in Singapore on July 14.

Andrew Collings, UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission Chair, said: "It is fantastic to see Para Pentathlon growing organically around the world.

"We saw some good participation in the recent 'come and try' event in Singapore. We are also seeing growing interest in sport participation not only from athletes but also from parents across Africa, Asia and Oceania."



News from around the world

UIPM releases new Concussion Policy with a renewed focus on athlete wellbeing

The UIPM Medical Committee has unveiled a new Concussion Policy as part of its continued efforts to focus on the safety and health of Modern Pentathlon athletes.

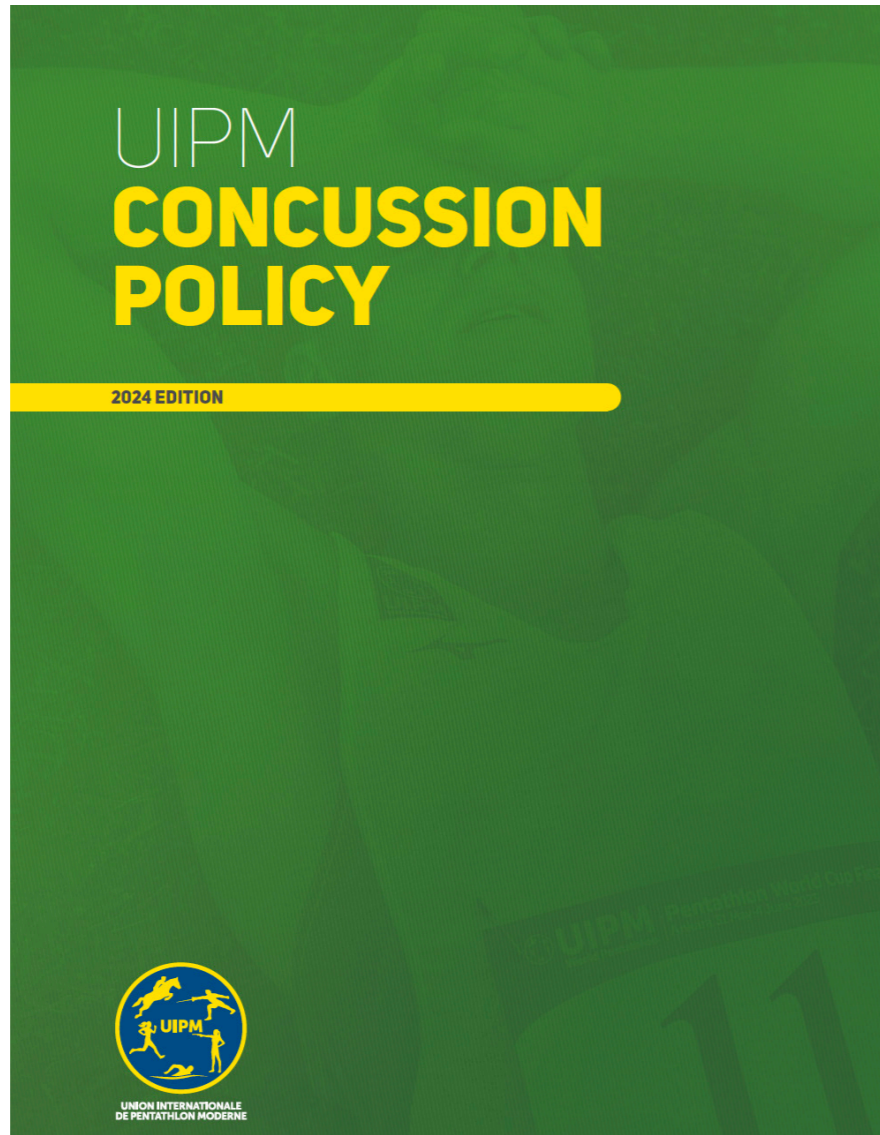
The comprehensive Concussion Policy was established to outline the procedures for identifying, managing and preventing concussions in all sports governed by UIPM.

As sports across the world continue to research and develop new approaches to dramatic brain injuries, the causes of concussion, its symptoms and both short-term and long-term effects are all in focus. The work by the UIPM Medical Committee on this front is both timely and in keeping with the best worldwide approaches.

The UIPM Concussion Policy explicitly states that "concussions are a serious concern in sport due to the potential short-term and long-term consequences". It outlines both Concussion Removal and Concussion Return guidelines with step-by-step processes to protect affected athletes and ensure a return-to-play protocol is meticulously followed.

UIPM Medical Committee Chair, Dr Natalja Ofitserova, said: "UIPM is always conscious of our primary duty of care – the health and wellbeing of our athletes. This comprehensive policy aims to educate athletes, coaches and officials about concussions, their symptoms and associated risks, while outlining clear procedures for their identification, removal and safe return to play within UIPM Sports.

"I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the UIPM Medical



The comprehensive new UIPM Concussion Policy aims to educate athletes, coaches and officials about concussions, their symptoms and associated risks.

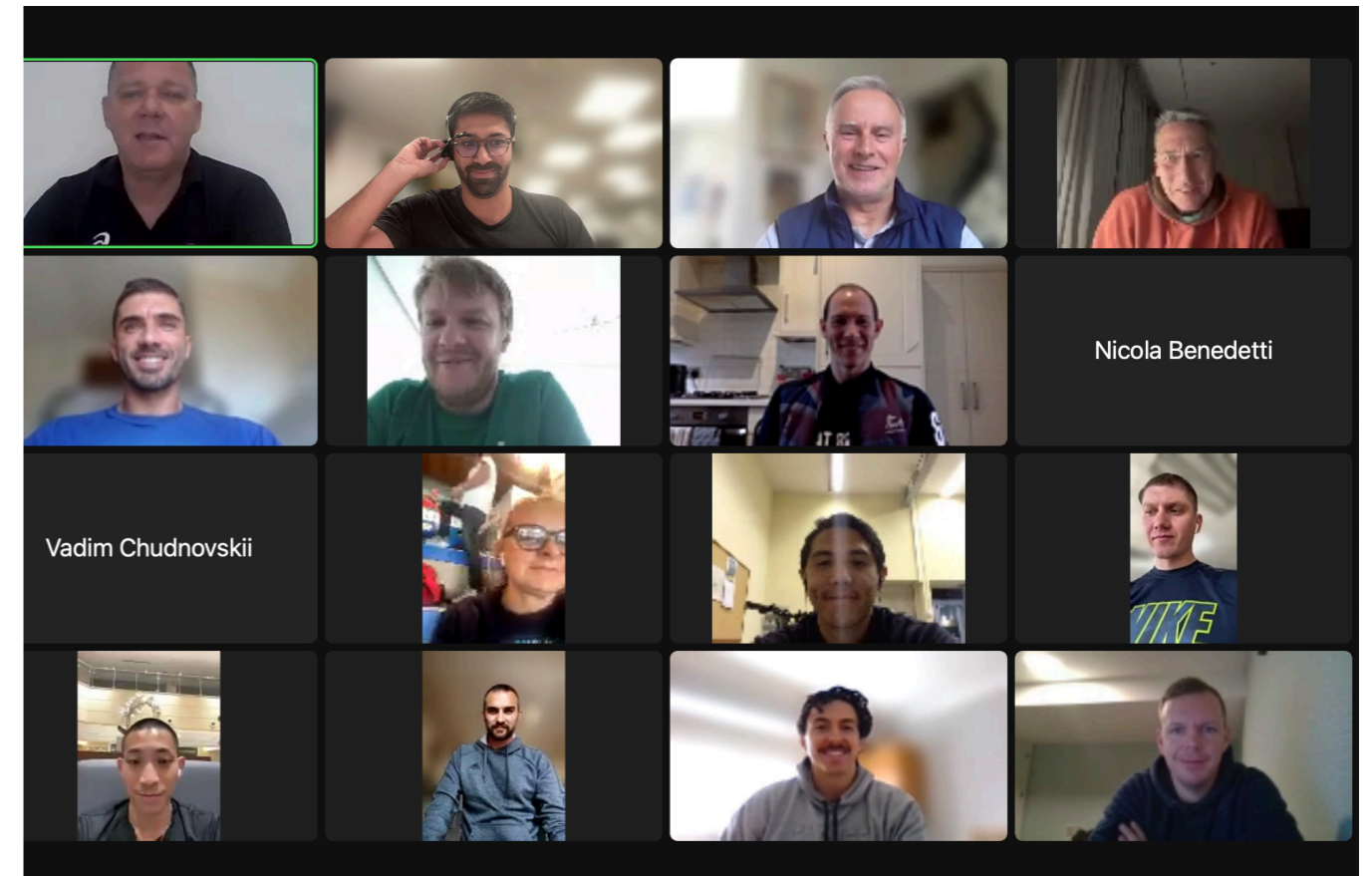
Committee for their work in compiling this policy document, which I am sure will serve to make our sports even safer for Modern Pentathlon athletes."

UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP): Global cohort of elite coaches attains Level 3

Coaches from across the global community of Modern Pentathlon took part in a hugely productive UIPM

Coaching Certification Programme (CCP) course that resembled a high-level coaching symposium.

The fourth edition of the Level 3 CCP Course was highly anticipated as it is specifically designed for senior coaches wishing to further immerse themselves in the cutting edge of elite pentathlon. This online edition from April 6-9 was the first Level 3 Course since 2022 and attracted a truly international cohort



Twelve speakers gave presentations on specific aspects of modern coaching during the recent Level 3 UIPM CCP course.

with 17 coaches from 13 countries taking part.

With UIPM Level 4 Coach Istvan Gallai (HUN) at the head of affairs, the course contained insights into the latest advancements in training methodologies and technological tools for sport evaluation and analysis, enabling coaches to further elevate their skillsets.

Twelve speakers gave presentations on specific aspects of modern coaching, with UIPM Coaches Committee Chair Christian Roudaut also in attendance. The course was completed by two female and 15 male coaches, all of whom successfully achieved Level 3 certification.

Instructor Gallai said: "I feel very lucky because I had an opportunity to meet online with 17 coaches from 13 countries. It was particularly interesting to engage with so many coaches of different countries, exploring how they think and what their coaching

philosophy is. It was nice to see how openly all coaches spoke during the course.

"In a way, the course felt more like a high-level coaching conference. In my opinion, this kind of cooperation is very important during the current changes in our sport. I'd like to express a special thanks to all of the presenters who did such a great job."

Christian Roudaut added: "Our aim for this fourth edition of the Level 3 course was to provide a stimulating syllabus for coaches who aspire to work at the highest levels of our sport and I can now adamantly say we achieved that – and more.

"Joining these highly experienced group of coaches and watching them exchange experiences and ideas was a reminder of the quality and energy of coaches we have in our sport. Seeing them all now progress to Level 3 is another positive sign of UIPM's investment in coaching development.

"I would once again encourage any coaches eager to broaden their skill set and reach a new level in their individual progression to keep their eye out for the next edition of this course."

For more information on the CCP please visit the UIPM Educational Platform.

Korean athletes dominate 2024 Asian Championships as new Confederation President is elected

Athletes from 11 nations took part in the 2024 Asian Championships, run by the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) in Hwaseong (KOR) with the Obstacle discipline making its debut.

A new generation of Korea athletes showed their versatility by mastering the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic format to win a slew of medals. Yoobin Kim (KOR), 21, won the Men's Individual gold with 17-year-old Sumin Shin

(KOR) claiming the Women's Individual title.

The Mixed Relay and Team honours also went to the host nation, with China, Kazakhstan and Japan also enjoying podium success across the categories. The Asian Under 19 Championships was also held in parallel to the senior event.

The AMPC Congress, held during the Championships, elected Hanjoon Lee (KOR) as its new President with Katsumi Yamazaki (JPN) and Dr Huda Almatrooshi (UAE) becoming new Vice Presidents alongside re-elected duo Valerii Novikov (KGZ) and Cassandra Choh (SGP). Viktor Maltsev (KGZ) was elected as Technical Director.

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia & UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final: Thirteen athletes approved to compete as neutrals

Twelve pentathletes who hold Belarus passports, and one who holds a Russia passport, have been approved to participate in a neutral capacity in UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (May 8-13) and the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara, Türkiye (May 22-26).

Approval for the last two competitions of the World Cup season was also granted to four coaches who hold Belarus passports, and one physio.

Rather than representing their country of origin, any of the 13 athletes who take part in UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (a maximum of four female and four male athletes per nation of origin, only in the individual category) will be designated as independent neutral athletes (AIN).

Participation in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final is also dependent on the standard qualification system outlined in the UIPM Competition Rules.

The approval was granted by UIPM's Independent Panel, which was set

up in May 2023 after UIPM created a pathway for individual athletes with Belarus or Russia passports to return to UIPM Sports competitions on a neutral basis.

The members of the Panel researched and discussed the credentials of each individual application based on eligibility criteria set by UIPM, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and in line with the United Nations in terms of the protection of individuals' rights.

All successful applicants have received approval of their neutral status and are eligible to compete in the fourth and fifth events of the UIPM 2024 season. Any applications for future competitions will be considered in the same way.

In making this announcement, UIPM also reiterates its absolute support for athletes and other members of the Modern Pentathlon community in Ukraine who have suffered so much since the invasion of their country by Russia, supported by Belarus.



Inside UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang's message

More competitive elections can lead to more interest, more possibilities ... and better decisions

We are in election year. And so far, all the evidence points towards a reinforcement of the vital democracy that is so important to the growth of UIPM as a global sports community.

Asia: a new diversity emerges

The first encouraging sign came during the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) elections. There was a record number of candidates interested in attaining the honour of a leadership role in one of our sport's most progressive continents.

During this electoral process, the interests and sporting benefits to National Federations in the region were heard loud and clear. It was the first time Asian NFs had communicated so many angles and opinions about what their continental representative body can achieve, revealing the diversity that exists.

In parallel to the AMPC Congress, the 2024 Asian Senior and U19 Championships were held, also in Hwaseong, Korea. For the first time, youth athletes had to earn the right to compete in the Final through qualification rounds.

With the new dimension of Obstacle discipline included in the competition format, it was another sign of increased accessibility within Modern Pentathlon, with participants coming from all corners.

Athletes from all corners of the globe

Another important moment in our democratic evolution this year will come in Zhengzhou, China, in June.

Participants in the UIPM 2024



Games in Hangzhou, China. It presents the Asian culture and solidarity. At the same time, we can't ignore the fact that Asia is composed of many regions, and the diversity is there.

Important decisions somehow need smarter 'decision architecture', and experience has taught us that cooperation plus procedure will make the difference – this has been proved by analysis and research, too.

Personally, I believe in the logic that a healthy decision needs 3 important pillars: dialogue, divergence and decision-making dynamics. Do we have this in all of our decisions? Obviously they are not all fully embedded, and some decisions can be made without all three.

However, seeing the process of AMPC elections and the eligible candidates for the global place on the UIPM Athletes Committee, it conveyed the message that our governance is open-minded and embracing. That might be one of the reasons for the attraction of interest, and it is in fact very positive.

Continent to continent, we will see differences in operational model, but I do hope that the positive launch of a new era for Asia can relay some positive spirit and give the community a fresh way of seeing things.

In the year of 2024, I also hope through my reflections each month to share with the community some charming development outcomes, no matter for which level or dimension of the UIPM movement.

It is my true belief that, at the heart of democracy, more competitive elections can lead to more interest, more possibilities and, ultimately, better decisions.

Pentathlon World Championships will have the right to vote in the election of the global representative of the UIPM Athletes Committee, who will be joined by representatives of each continent when their mandate for the next Olympic cycle begins in 2025.

This is the first time the election of the global member has attracted seven eligible candidates from three continents. These athletes want their voice to be heard and they believe they can use the platform to make a difference.

It is also the first time the nomination of athlete representatives has been close to a 50-50 gender split. If this balance does not yet apply to all representative positions within UIPM, at least in the athlete community we are proud of the equality that exists.

Three Ds: dialogue, divergence, decision-making dynamics

I liked the concept of 'One Asia' that featured in the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) reception during the 2023 Asian

Inside UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann's activities

04.04. - 06.04.2024: Birmingham, GBR

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann attended the SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit 2024 with Secretary General Shiny Fang, Operations Director Alexandre Franca and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer.

During the trip they also attended the Joint Meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and the ASOIF General Assembly, where

Ingmar De Vos was elected as ASOIF President. The revival of SportAccord after five years enabled more than 1,700 participants from 87 countries to reconnect and interact in person.

UIPM President Dr Schormann had meetings with Col Nilton Rolim, President of the International Military Sports Council (CISM), and his Secretary General, Capt Roberto Recchia.

They discussed potential hosting solutions for future editions of the CISM Modern Pentathlon Military World Championships, which will be held in Spain in 2025 and in Hungary in

2026. The UIPM/CISM Memorandum of Understanding from 2011 will be reviewed with a view to renewal during this year's World Championships.

Additionally, Dr Schormann took the opportunity to speak with old-time friend and CEO of SportsIn, George Yerolimpos, who offered his help in any kinds for the future of Modern Pentathlon and fully supports the UIPM President's decision not to seek re-election at the end of the year.

During these days in Birmingham (GBR), the UIPM President also had a meeting with HRH Abdulaziz bin Turki



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with (left to right) UIPM Events Operations Director Alexandre Franca, Secretary General Shiny Fang and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer at SportAccord 2024 in Birmingham (GBR)



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with CISM Secretary General Capt Roberto Recchia (left) and CISM President Col Nilton Gomes (right)

Al Saud, President of the Saudi Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and Vice President Prince Fahd bin Jalawi bin Abdul Aziz.

Various topics were covered, with the emphasis on the 73rd UIPM Congress in Riyadh (KSA) in November 2024. His Royal Highness expressed his continuous support for this important and historical Congress and promised his employees would be ready to assist in any way needed. UIPM President Dr Schormann agreed to stay in close contact with HRH Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Saud and expressed his trust in the good work and ambition of Saudi Arabia to host an excellent UIPM Congress.

Another meeting took place with Jose Perurena, President of the International World Games Association (IWGA), to examine possibilities around UIPM Sports becoming part of the World Games from 2029.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with George Yerolimpos, CEO of SportsIn

President Perurena, with IWGA CEO Joachim Gossow, explained the possibilities of an entrance through direct contact with the new host city after its election in May 2024, whereby the host city would have the capacity to decide some of the sports on the programme.

12.04. - 15.04.2024: Hwaseong, KOR

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann was present at the 2024 Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) Congress, which was extraordinary based on the number of nations represented and candidates to become AMPC Board Members.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with Jose Perurena, IWGA President, at SportAccord 2024

After a thorough election process, the



AMPC Secretary General Sangkeong Yeo addresses the 2024 AMPC Congress as UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang are joined at the top table by (left to right) AMPC Technical Director Viktor Maltsev, outgoing AMPC President Hyunjun Kim and AMPC Vice Presidents Cassandra Choh and Valerii Novikov



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang pose for a group photograph with all delegates at the 2024 Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation Congress in Hwaseong (KOR)



new AMPC office-bearers were announced and all elected representatives will begin their mandate after UIPM 2024 Congress.

The UIPM President gave a speech about the founding of AMPC in 1986 together with former UIPM Vice President Kuisung Choi, and the close cooperation that has existed since.

During an official reception, IOC Member and Korean Olympic Committee President Keeheung Lee made a personal speech to the Asian community and especially to the Korean Modern Pentathlon Federation, which he formerly served an Executive Board Member.

As part of the festivities, President Dr Schormann joined KOC President Lee, former AMPC President Hyunjun

Kim and his successor Hanjoon Lee, Monsung Lee from the Sport Council and the Mayor of Hwaseong, Myeonggeung Jeong, in cutting a cake to celebrate the good cooperation between AMPC & UIPM and the successful Asian Championships. The UIPM President joined UIPM and AMPC

representatives in a visit to the National Training Center (NTC) of the Korean Sports & Olympic Committee, where UIPM Technical Committee Member Dongkook Chung acts as Vice Chief.

The state-of-the-art outdoor and indoor multi-sports facility will



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, his wife Karin Schormann and UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang pose for a group photograph with AMPC officials at the 2024 AMPC Pentathlon Asian Championships in Hwaseong (KOR)





UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, Karin Schormann and UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang join UIPM Executive Board Members and staff and AMPC officials for a photograph outside the venue in Hwaseong (KOR)

become one of the world's biggest sports complexes, as it will cover 37 different events and be able to house up to 1,115 athletes. After the visit, the UIPM and AMPC delegates attended the Asian Championships to watch the Senior and U19 Finals.

17.04. - 21.04.2024: Ankara, TUR

Amidst recent developments, the Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation (TMPF) finds itself in a transitional phase, with notable changes in its leadership structure. Following discussions with the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the Minister of Youth and Sports, Osman Askin Bak, Dr Veli Ozan Cakir has been appointed as the General Director of Sports Services.

Dr Cakir is now continuing as



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and TMPF Honorary President Dr Veli Ozan Cakir



Honorary President of the TMPF, while Ercan Taciroglu (former EB Member) has assumed the role of the Acting President with the responsibility of maintaining the progression of the Modern Pentathlon movement in Türkiye.

During his visit to UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chose to acknowledge the esteemed Ankara Equestrian Club as it hosted

this prestigious event for the third consecutive year, further solidifying its reputation as a cornerstone of elite Modern Pentathlon competition.

Following the success of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR) in winning Best Promoted Competition at the UIPM 2023 Annual Awards, President Dr Klaus Schormann presented an award to Prof Veli Cakir beneath the oak tree they planted together in 2022.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann receives a special award from TMPF Honorary President Dr Veli Ozan Cakir as they are joined by executive officials from both federations beside the oak tree planted by Dr Schormann and Dr Cakir in 2022

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and TMPF Honorary President Dr Veli Ozan Cakir give a thumbs-up to the future of Modern Pentathlon with a group of schoolchildren who attended UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara



The competition was also used for a pilot school project organised and supported by the Turkish Government, to introduce children to different sports in Turkey and enlarge their knowledge as well as to raise awareness about Modern Pentathlon. They prepared an Obstacle course and Laser Run track for the children to try. This pilot project was used to adapt to other regions in Türkiye as well.

25.04. - 28.04.2024: Budapest, HUN

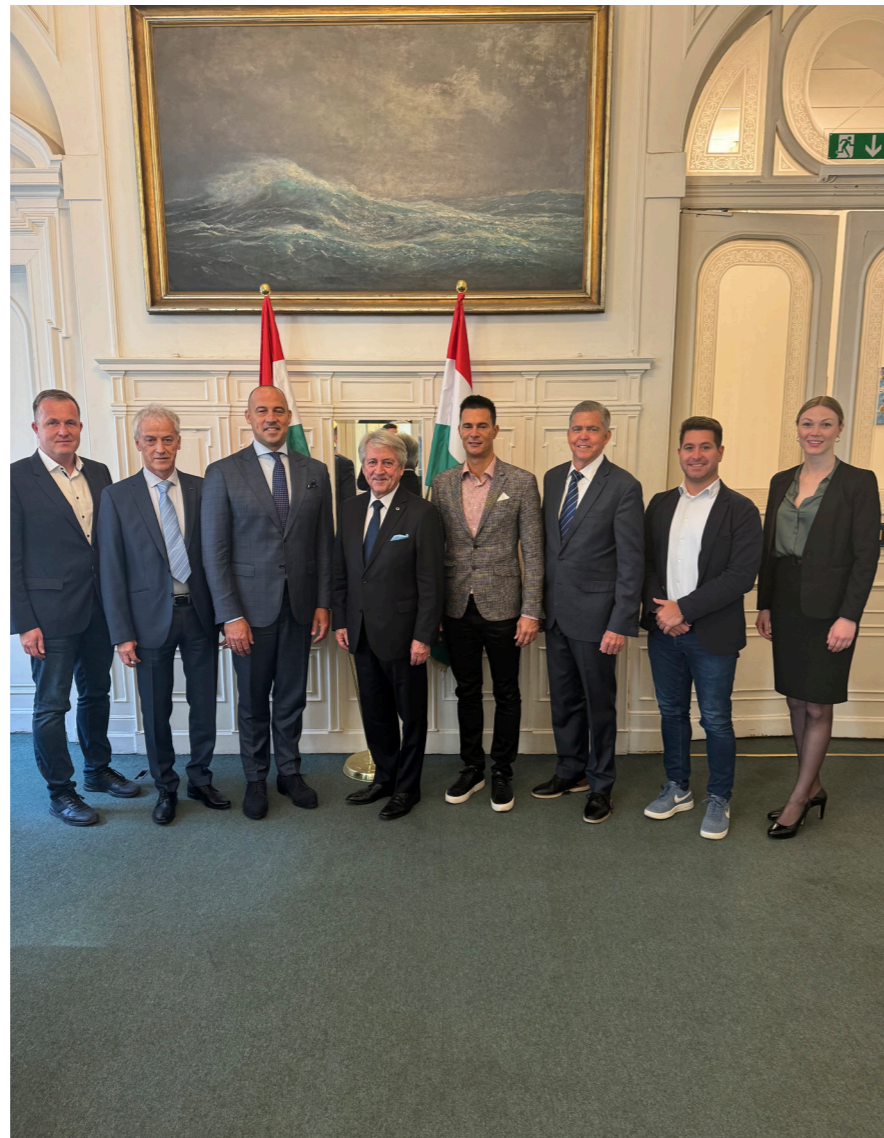
UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann was joined by UIPM EB Member Rob Stull, newly-elected Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Federation (HMPF) President Gabor Balogh, HMPF Secretary General Attila Mizser and UIPM Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer in a meeting with Hungary's State Secretary for Sport, Dr Adam Schmidt, at the Defense Ministry.

The meeting was about the development of Modern Pentathlon in Hungary, especially since a new board has been elected and expressed a wish to host the flagship UIPM 2027 Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest (HUN).

In addition, President Dr Schormann thanked President Balogh and State Secretary Schmidt for the interest to host the CISM Modern Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest in 2026. The new HMPF President underlined the good existing cooperation with UIPM and their wish to continue an excellent partnership also in terms of developing Modern Pentathlon through schools and clubs.

A lot of former officials and pentathletes from Hungary attended UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest to observe the modern, exciting, thrilling and innovative sport which has changed dramatically after their time of competing in Modern Pentathlon.

Among the group were Gyula Bretz (UIPM Honorary Member; former UIPM Treasurer and HMPA President), Attila



Left to right: Akos Reinhardt (Head of Sport Department of State Hungary); Attila Mizser (HMPA Secretary General); Dr Adam Schmidt (State Secretary of Sport Hungary); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Gabor Balogh (HMPA President); Rob Stull (UIPM Executive Board Member, NORCECA President); Roland Liszcai (Head of Sport Unit of Hungary), Lena Nussbaumer (UIPM Executive Assistant)

Mizser (HMPA Secretary General, two-time Olympic medallist); Peter Kelemen (1970 world champion), Dr Ferenc Torok (Tokyo 1964 Olympic Champion, UIPM Honorary Member and former Vice President, HMPA President, UIPM Hall of Fame inductee), Gabor Balogh (HMPA President, Sydney 2000 Olympic silver medallist) and Janos Bodi (1956 Olympian).

Other VIP guests included Aron Szilagyi (three-time individual Olympic champion in Sabre Fencing), State Secretary Dr Schmidt and Gyula Dallos, Minister Commissioner in Hungary's Ministry of Defence and a

former champion equestrian athlete. In addition to the meeting with the State Secretary of Sport, President Dr Schormann convened with Zolt Gyulay, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee (HOC), as well as Pal Schmitt, former State President of Hungary and Honorary Member of the IOC and UIPM.

Among the attendees were Daniel Gyurta, current IOC Athletes Commission Member and London 2012 Olympic swimming champion, along with Rob Stull, Gabor Balogh, Attila Mizser and Lena Nussbaumer.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with (left to right) Gyula Bretz, Attila Mizser, Peter Kelemen, Dr Ferenc Torok, State Secretary Dr Adam Schmidt, Gabor Balogh, Minister Gyula Dallos, Aron Szilagyi and Janos Bodi

During this gathering, discussions centred on the support and collaboration between the HOC and the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association (HMPA). The expressed full support for the pending

changes to Modern Pentathlon and offered assistance to the HMPA in areas such as Obstacle training and upcoming competitions within Modern Pentathlon like regular World Cups, but also the wish to host the UIPM 2027

Pentathlon World Championships. The HOC's endorsement underscores the perceived benefits and positive impact on the sport's future development of hosting UIPM's flagship competitions.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with (left to right) Olympic champion athletes Daniel Gyurta and Aron Szilagyi, IOC Honorary Member Pal Schmitt, HOC President Zolt Gyulay, HMPA Secretary General Attila Mizser, UIPM EB Member Rob Stull and UIPM Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer

Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at May 1, 2024

MEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	210
2	MEX	Emiliano HERNANDEZ	205
3	EGY	Mohanad SHABAN	201
4	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	177
5	HUN	Csaba BOHM	175
6	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	163
7	KOR	Changwan SEO	163
8	KOR	Woongtae JUN	160
9	HUN	Balazs SZEP	159
10	ITA	Giorgio MALAN	154
11	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	150
12	GER	Marvin DOGUE	149
13	EGY	Moutaz MOHAMED	146
14	CHN	Linbin ZHANG	146
15	JPN	Taishu SATO	143
16	FRA	Valentin PRADES	141
17	KOR	Jihun LEE	135
18	ITA	Matteo CICINELLI	134
19	GBR	Myles PILLAGE	134
20	CZE	Marek GRYZCZ	134

WOMEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	ITA	Elena MICHELI	211
2	ITA	Alice SOTERO	201
3	GBR	Kerenza BRYSON	190
4	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	179
5	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	168
6	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	165
7	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	160
8	GBR	Olivia GREEN	159
9	GER	Rebecca LANGREHR	159
10	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	142
11	KOR	Sunwoo KIM	142
12	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	142
13	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	141
14	INA	Mariya GNEDTCHIK	137
15	POL	Anna MALISZEWSKA	130
16	ESP	Laura HEREDIA	129
17	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	127
18	LTU	Ieva SERAPINAITE	126
19	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSOU	123
20	GBR	Emma WHITAKER	123

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



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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