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**World Pentathlon
Newsletter**

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UIPM 2023 PENTATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Elena Micheli of Italy (left) and Joseph Choong of Great Britain (right) cemented their place in history by winning second consecutive world titles in the Women's and Men's Finals respectively at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Bath (GBR)



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UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships

Egypt top medal table after week of incredible competition in Bath (GBR)

Egypt's golden generation of pentathletes underlined their status in the world order as the African powerhouse topped the medal table at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships.

A week of exhilarating action in the historic spa city of Bath (GBR) saw the individual honours go to two of the sport's biggest stars as Elena Micheli of Italy and Joseph Choong of Great Britain reinforced their brilliance by claiming back-to-back world titles.

Egypt dominated the Relay and Team events with gold in the Mixed Relay and three other gold medals, Mohanad Shaban (EGY) completing his own personal haul of two golds and a bronze.

The glory was well spread out, however, with six different countries from four continents bringing home medals from the competition.

There was, of course, another big incentive on the line in Bath (GBR) with up to three Paris 2024 Olympic direct qualification quota places on offer for both men and women.

There was joy for the host nation as Kerenza Bryson (GBR) proved to be the only Women's competitor to punch a precious ticket to Paris, while on the men's side, Emilano Hernandez grabbed a place for Mexico.

UIPM Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, who attended the competition, said: "It feels great to be back at the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships, especially here at the University of Bath at this incredible sports complex.



Egypt got things off to a flyer with the first gold of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships

"It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm and the very knowledgeable crowd here, and it's great to see the athletes go all out to try to secure a place at next year's Olympic Games Paris 2024.

"It should be an incredible setting for Modern Pentathlon at the Palace de Versailles. Quite unique, and I think it will be a great showcase for our sport of Modern Pentathlon but also for the values it carries. And beyond that, I think the future is very bright for Modern Pentathlon.

"There are changes that are being brought in that makes it, I think, a very exciting prospect. I'm absolutely sure. I have tried to be as supportive as possible about these changes and I really think we are facing a very exciting future, a very exciting way forward."

UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann,

said: "I am grateful to all the referees and volunteers who helped to make the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships, our flagship competition, so very successful in the year before the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

"We had the biggest number of nations, more than 50, which is a record for our World Championships and we had 21 nations in the Mixed Relay, which is another record. It was great to see how the athletes focused on Paris 2024.

"Another big highlight was the visit of our Honorary President, IOC Member and President of the State of Monaco, Prince Albert II, to the Finals and we could see how much he enjoyed the competition and the efforts of the athletes.

"We also welcomed the President of



Action from the Riding discipline during the Men's Relay at the University of Bath (GBR) where the quality of performances on horseback was strong all week



Action is fast-paced on the piste during the opening day in the historic city of Bath (GBR)

the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, Francesco Ricci Bitti, with whom we had many discussions about the integration of Obstacle as a new discipline in Modern Pentathlon – and this has been welcomed by all sides.

"All of our international guests and sponsors who came here have enjoyed the atmosphere and the glory of this World Championships. It was great for the organising nation to have the Men's Individual gold medallist on top of the

podium, among other medals won by Great Britain."

Women's and Men's Relay: Egypt's double triumph sets the tone for the week ahead

Four continents were represented on the podium as a prolific Egypt team began the medal rush at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships with a double Relay triumph.

In a pulsating finish to the first day of Modern Pentathlon Finals in the historic city of Bath (GBR), Moutaz Mohamed and Ahmed Hamed (EGY) held on for Men's Relay gold to back up victory for their female compatriots earlier in the day.

In an exciting Laser Run battle, the pedigree of world No.9 Balazs Szep alongside Gergely Regos helped Hungary to silver with bronze going to the formidable Korea duo of Changwan Seo and Jihun Lee.

Earlier, Amira Kandil and Malak Ismail (EGY) lived up to their billing as they claimed the Championships' first gold medal, topping the podium in the Women's Relay after seeing off a strong challenge from Beatrice Mercuri and Aurora Tognetti of Italy.

With so many of the stars of the sport gathered this week, it was Tokyo 2020 Olympians Mayan Oliver and Mariana Arceo of Mexico who claimed bronze.

With the combination of Ismail and Kandil, Egypt boasted a dynamic and,



The Men's Relay saw 14 teams take part as Egypt came out on top to claim both gold medals on offer on the first day of competition

for the rest of the field, daunting team. Ismail is world No.22 and last month claimed World U19 gold in Istanbul (TUR) while Kandil had claimed gold in this same event at the UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) alongside Haydy Morsy (EGY).

Egypt (Ismail/Kandil) duly laid down a marker in Fencing by racking up 28 victories in the Ranking Round and tacking on four more points in the Fencing Bonus Round. That was enough to give them an early three-point lead over Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) with the talented duo of Seungmin Seong and Sehee Kim (KOR) a point further back.

However, the Korean challenge would be short-lived as they failed to negotiate the Riding discipline. Switzerland (Chloe Vaucher & Lea Egloff) were the best performers on horseback, claiming 293 points with China (Xiuting Zhong & Linzhi Xie) next best.

The home challenge got going in the pool when Great Britain (Gina Speakman & Alexandra Bousfield) produced a super swim, clocking 2min 02.37sec, second-fastest of the day just behind Japan (Kanae Umemura &



The sun shone on competitors during the Laser Run finale of the Women's Relay

Hana Shibata). With the leaderboard tightening up, Egypt (Ismail/Kandil) were in hot pursuit in 2:03.33 and Italy (Mercuri/Tognetti) 0.5sec back.

That meant Egypt (Ismail/Kandil) would begin the Laser Run in front but with a mere 2sec head start on Italy (Mercuri/Tognetti). China (Zhong/Xie) were 21sec back and Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) a further 3sec behind the leaders.

Egypt (Ismail/Kandil) showed all of their class to hang on for the week's first gold in 13:33.90 with the Italians

(Mercuri/Tognetti) crossing the line six seconds later and Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) taking bronze thanks to a solid run of 13:29.60. Korea (Seong/Kim) were left to wonder what might have been as they produced a scorching Laser Run time of 13:19.70.

With 14 nations taking part in the Men's competition, the action was even more hectic. The Ukraine duo (Kyrym Shekhmametyev & Dmytro Kirpulyanskyy) kept their heads to grab an early lead as they racked up the best score in the Fencing Ranking Round

with 19 victories.

That was one better than Korea (Seo/Lee) with Hungary (Regos/Szep) claiming 15 victories but adding an impressive eight points in the Fencing Bonus Round. Germany (Marvin Dogue & Dominik Olejarz) were equally prolific in the Bonus Round.

In an impressive Riding discipline, it was Czech Republic (Matous Tuma & Filip Houska) who excelled as the day's only top scorers in Riding. However Egypt (Mohamed/Hamed) weren't far behind with Chinese Taipei (Hsiang Hu & Yi Hu) also impressing with 294 points. Germany (Dogue/Olejarz) suffered misfortune and were eliminated.

In the pool, Chinese Taipei (Hu/Hu) stepped things up another notch scorching to the best time in 1:49.77 fully two second clear of Egypt (Mohamed/Hamed) who were next best with Korea (Seo/Lee) in hot pursuit.

With so little separating the frontrunners it was Ukraine (Shekhmametyev/Kirpulyanskyy) who started the Laser Run with the narrowest lead of just 1sec over Egypt (Mohamed/Hamed) with Korea (Seo/Lee) 6sec further back. The Czechs (Tuma/Houska), Hungary (Regos/Szep), China (Shuhuan Li & Linbin Zhang) and France (Jean-Baptiste Mourcia & Ugo Fleurot) were all within 25sec of the leaders.

A titanic tussle ensued with Hungary (Regos/Szep) again showing their hard-running pedigree, clocking a blistering time of 11:19.70. But even that wasn't enough to reel in the Egyptians (Mohamed/Ahmed) who held on in a sprint finish for a time of 11:27.70 with Korea (Seo/Lee) crossing in third just behind Hungary (Regos/Szep).

Super Sunday: Micheli (ITA) and Choong (GBR) underline their status by repeating as champions

Elena Micheli of Italy and Joseph Choong of Great Britain proved that the first time was no fluke by winning



Super Sunday witnessed some incredible Riding performances across Women's and Men's Finals

back-to-back gold medals at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships.

On a day of incredible racing and imperious performances, Women's Individual bronze medallist Kerenza Bryson (GBR) and Men's Individual silver medallist Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico earned their countries direct qualification quota places for the Olympic Games.

Micheli (ITA) broke from the pack after a tight start to the Women's Final Laser Run to win gold by an impressive 9sec and retain the world title she claimed for the first time 12 months ago in Alexandria (EGY). In doing so, she became the first woman to successfully defend this title since Amelie Caze of France in 2008.

Aged 24, and having also won the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final to secure a place at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Micheli (ITA) appears to have the world at her feet. And it is possible that her main rival for Olympic gold could come from inside her own country.

Alice Sotero (ITA), a 4th-place finisher at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games who since gave birth to her first child, is in the form of her life and followed up her gold medal at the 3rd European Games in Krakow (POL) by winning world silver behind her team-mate.

Having climbed from a starting place of 9th, Sotero (ITA) had to fight all the way against Bryson (GBR), who had started 6th. Bryson (GBR) became the second athlete from her team after European Games bronze medallist Olivia Green (GBR) to secure a direct qualification quota place at Paris 2024.

This brought to an end a captivating women's competition, with such a high standard that two-time Olympic medallist Laura Asadauskaite of Lithuania had to accept another 4th place – her fourth of the season. Rebecca Langrehr of Germany and Mariana Arceo (MEX) completed the top six.

The Men's Final was perhaps even more dramatic, mainly because Hernandez



The Fencing Bonus Round offered a chance for competitors to move up the leaderboard on Super Sunday in Bath (GBR)

(MEX) ran Choong (GBR) so close after starting with a 10sec deficit. He outpaced the Olympic champion on each running lap but found his rival to be in exceptional form on the range, which ultimately proved decisive.

Choong's feat of back-to-back Men's Individual world titles is even rarer than Micheli's - the last male athlete to pull it off was Sebastien Deleigne (FRA) in 1998.

Behind them, there was an intriguing tussle between the Egyptians and Koreans, finally settled by the African contingent as UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final winner Shaban (EGY) fought off the challenge of brothers Ahmed and Mohamed Elgendy (EGY), with Woongtae Jun of Korea fighting back hard to claim the last spot in the top six.

The Women's Team gold medal was won by Italy ahead of Great Britain and Hungary, while Egypt won the Men's

Team title with silver and bronze going to Great Britain and Korea respectively.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Women's champion Micheli (ITA) said: "I am twice world champion, we are twice world champion, me and my staff, so I am really happy with it.

"My head coach told me, 'never, never look back while you are running', but

when I saw Alice coming back to me I said 'oh, it's impossible for me not to look back'. It was really amazing - this could be a dream that we stand on the podium together.

"I'm really excited and don't have the words to explain because, in a way, I wasn't ready for this. It has been a surprise for me because it's not so simple to confirm yourself in another



Action from the pool in the Swimming discipline during the Women's Final in Bath (GBR)



Focus is the name of the game at the shooting range in both the Men's Final, above, and in the Women's, right, where Elena Micheli (ITA) shone World Championships. One way or another, last year it happened and it happened again right now.

"I am so excited, so happy, and I would just like to thank the coaches who have been near to me and helped me. During the Riding course and the Shooting range, they were always by my side."

Silver medallist Sotero (ITA) said: "I feel so good. I came here as European champion but I started 9th in the Laser Run and I didn't believe that I could be second. It's so beautiful.

"In the final lap when I went out with Kerenza Bryson, and my team-mates said 'go, go, faster, faster', I saw Elena ahead of me and I said 'OK, I want us to be first and second'.

"I want to say thanks to my family who are helping with my daughter, I love them so much and I want to go home to celebrate with them."

Bronze medallist Bryson (GBR) said: "I just can't believe it. It's amazing to compete at a home World Championships and I've never had so many friends and family at this stage



to support me. It's something really special that I didn't think I'd get to experience in my sporting career.

"I'm really proud about that performance. After Swimming I felt the lactic acid and I could still feel it in my arm in the Shooting, so that first Shooting series was quite shaky and I panicked as I came out of the range, thinking 'if I do that four times there's no way I'm going to climb'. But I managed to compose myself.

"It helped massively to have the crowd shouting when I came on piste and every time I ran past them. It just puts a smile on your face."

Men's champion Choong (GBR) said: "I definitely didn't have it under control from the start. To be honest, about

three weeks ago I wasn't sure if I would be competing. I tore my calf five weeks ago and had a rocky build-up. So I'm absolutely speechless that I ended up winning this competition.

"The crowd has been absolutely amazing and thank you so much everyone for coming. One of my favourite competitions I've ever done.

"I am generally a calm and laid-back person but the disrupted build-up really took the pressure off myself. In the Semi-final I was thinking of trying to make the Final, maybe get a Team medal at least. Then I drew an absolutely beautiful horse, and that put me in a great position and I managed to haul it together in the technical events where my Running might have been a bit weaker than usual."



The three medallists in the Women's Individual Final at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships savour their moment of glory

Silver medallist Hernandez (MEX) said: "First of all, congrats to Choong and thanks to everyone in Bath for having us in this fantastic competition. It was really interesting to have so many people shouting and supporting Choong, I was really happy about that. It was a really good competition for me, and for everybody really."

Bronze medallist Shaban (EGY) said: "The Laser Run was so hard today, because we had Woongtae and the Elgendys and they are so strong. Today my competition was not very good in Riding, not even Fencing was very good, so I am so happy to have the bronze today."

WOMEN'S FINAL — RIDING

Organisers in Bath (GBR) provided a stern examination of Riding competence – which most of the 18 athletes in the Women's Final passed.

Nobody managed a perfect round, but five athletes – Green (GBR), Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye, Arceo (MEX), Emma Whitaker (GBR) and Asadauskaite (LTU) – completed the course with only one knockdown. Micheli (ITA) stayed in touch with a 287.

FENCING

With many rightly expecting another

Italian-dominated Women's Final, it was Alessandra Frezza (ITA) who surprisingly topped the standings in the Fencing Ranking Round. With 24 victories she was two clear of Langrehr (GER) and three wins above Bryson (GBR), Arceo (MEX) and Micheli (ITA) on the ladder.

The enduring star of the Bonus Round was Bryson (GBR), who won the last three bouts to boost her podium chances by six overall points.

SWIMMING

Sotero (ITA) moved firmly back into contention with a fantastic swim of 2min 08.63sec – only 2sec off world record pace. Micheli (ITA) and Gulyas (HUN) were next fastest on the 2:12 mark, while some of the overall leaders dropped points to set up a very intriguing Laser Run start line.

LASER RUN

The consistent Micheli (ITA) spent the first two laps edging away from her closest rival, Arceo (MEX), who may have had the edge on the champion had she not stalled on the last two visits to the shooting range.

Green (GBR) and Zhang (CHN) quickly faded from contention and the main threats presented themselves in the shape of Langrehr (GER) and

Asadauskaite (LTU), who then found themselves reined in by Sotero (ITA) and Bryson (GBR).

At the third shoot, Micheli (ITA) made a decisive move for the win and when Arceo (MEX) lost her rhythm, the battle for bronze became a battle for silver. Asadauskaite (LTU) could not get her shots away quickly enough to keep pressure on Sotero (ITA) and Bryson (GBR), who were overjoyed to cross the finish line as first-time World Championships medallists, the latter roared home by an appreciative home crowd and the former in the day's best time of 11:00.10.

MEN'S FINAL — RIDING

The Men's Riding closely mirrored the Women's, with four athletes top-scoring with 293. One of them was reigning champion Choong (GBR), looking purposeful and calm, but Hernandez (MEX), Marvin Dogue (GER) and Jihun Lee (KOR) achieved the same score.

FENCING

Bence Demeter (HUN) enjoyed the most success in the Fencing Ranking Round, notching 23 victories – and adding the maximum four points on offer in the Bonus Round. But Choong (GBR) was only one victory behind



The Mixed Relay began with a dramatic Riding round that saw just one country complete a faultless round on horseback

the top fencer in both rounds, scoring 22V/13D alongside Linbin Zhang (CHN) and team-mates Mohamed Elgendy and Shaban (EGY).

SWIMMING

Feeling comfortable at the top of the leaderboard, Choong (GBR) did not overstretch himself in the pool, recording the 8th-fastest time. It was his team-mate Myles Pillage (GBR) who made the biggest waves with a very quick 1:57.23. Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) made up some ground on the leaders with an excellent 1:58.87, while European champion Giorgio Malan (ITA) also broke the 2min mark.

LASER RUN

Knowing that a 10sec deficit to the Olympic champion represented a mountain to climb, Hernandez (MEX) only knew one way to approach the challenge and that was to attack. Which is exactly what he did on all of the five laps, passing Choong (GBR) on the track and trying to keep pressure on the favourite.

The problem for Hernandez (MEX) was

not so much that he shot badly; it was more that Choong (GBR) shot superbly, missing only a couple of shots in the entire race and showing the control of nerve that only great pentathlon champions can achieve.

It was cat and mouse throughout, but finally the consistency of Choong (GBR) broke his rival down, and for the first time at the final shoot Choong (GBR) managed to get a 5sec cushion that he used all his experience to protect, crossing the line to the euphoria of the crowd.

Hernandez (MEX) was elated with his silver, as was Shaban (EGY) with his bronze because he held off some of the greatest runners in the sport to secure it. Initially it was Jun (KOR) who looked like the favourite for bronze, but finally his difficulties in Riding became a telling factor and he and his team-mates Lee (KOR) and Jinhwa Jung (KOR) faded under the Egyptian onslaught.

The best Laser Run time was recorded by Csaba Bohm (HUN) – 9:48.20.

Mixed Relay: Abdelmaksoud and Shaban (EGY) in sparkling form to round off a glorious week

Salma Abdelmaksoud and Mohanad Shaban combined to devastating effect to earn Egypt a fourth gold medal as the curtain came down on a truly memorable UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

The brilliant victors led the Mixed Relay from start to finish in spite of the diligent efforts of Sunwoo Kim and Woongtae Jun, who claimed an impressive silver medal for Korea. A week of exhilarating competition in the historic spa city had one last showdown when Czech Republic (Lucie Hlavackova & Marek Grycz) held on in a gripping battle for bronze with Türkiye (Ilke Ozyuksel & Bugra Unal).

Host nation Great Britain (Kerenza Byrson & Myles Pillage) were cheered home in 5th and Poland (Anna Maliszewska & Lukasz Gutkowski) finished 6th of the record 21 nations competing.

Gold gave Shaban a haul of three medals for the week, having claimed Men's Individual bronze and Team gold on Super Sunday. The result meant that Egypt finished top of the Pentathlon World Championships medal table with four golds and a bronze, clear of Italy (two gold, two silver) and Great Britain (one gold, two silver, one bronze). Countries from four continents took home medals.

MEDALLIST'S REACTION

Gold medallist Shaban (EGY) said: "Today was a very good day because we began the day by winning the Fencing, then in the Riding we had the first clear round. In the Laser Run we shot well and the Running was not too hard. That's a good day."

"I am so happy because it is my third medal of the competition at senior level. I am still young today and have more years coming. I hope to continue this to the Olympic Games."

Team-mate Abdelmaksoud (EGY) said: "I am very happy and looking forward to the next challenges. In the future I feel like we can have better and better results. It's a very good feeling to be world champion. I hope that in the individual competition next time, I can do better and have a big result."

Silver medallist Kim (KOR) said: "The last few years with my Mixed Relay partner have been very good. Today is a silver medal and I am so happy. Fencing put us in a good position. Riding was a little nervous but the Swimming and Laser Run were very good, which makes us happy."

Bronze medallist Grycz (CZE) said: "For me it means a lot because this is my first senior medal in all World Cup, World Championships, Europeans. Even though I am 25, almost 26, this is my first time to get a medal and I'm really happy for that."

Team-mate Hlavackova (CZE) added: "This is my first time competing in the senior category. I really didn't dream I would be leaving with a medal. It's a



Mohanad Shaban and Salma Abdelmaksoud (EGY) celebrate a Fencing Bonus Round victory great way to end the season."

RIDING

With such a talented tandem of fencers representing Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Shaban), the rest of the contenders would have been hoping to keep them within their sights for as long as possible. However, the African powerhouse cemented their position by recording the only perfect Riding score of 300 points.

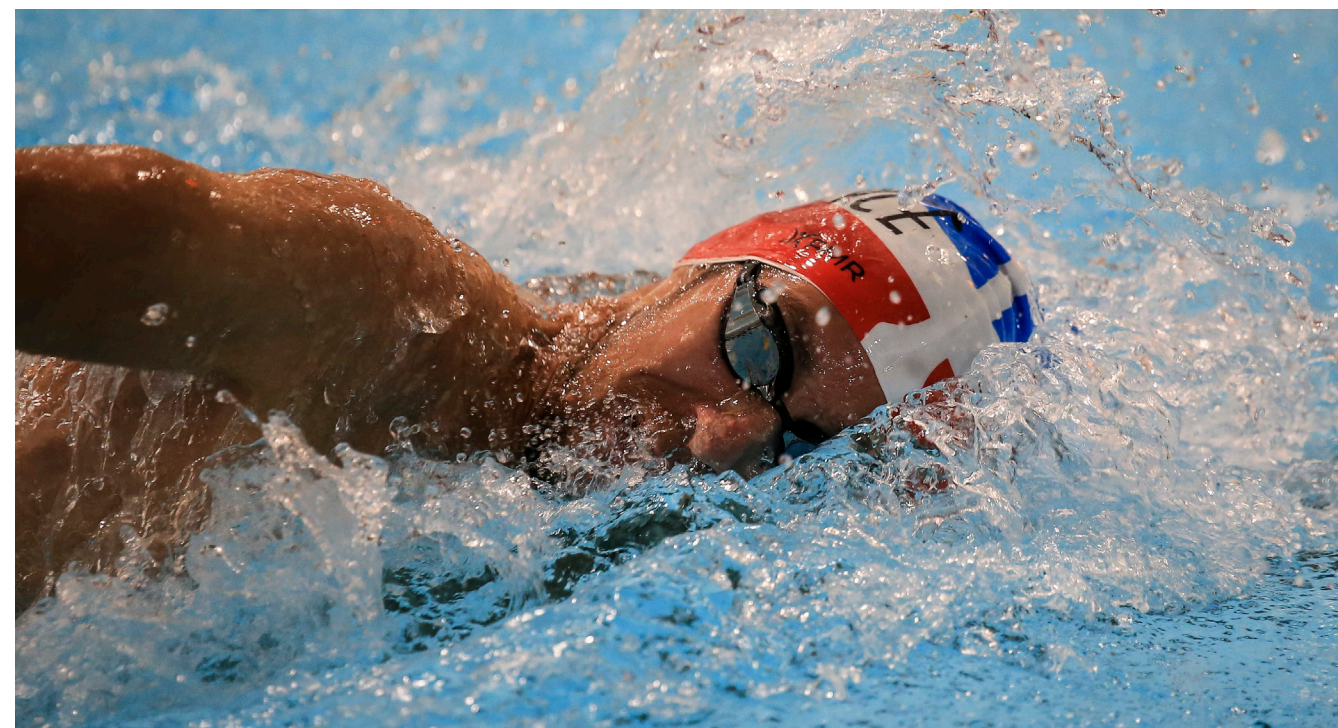
Korea (Kim/Jun) did their best to stay close with an impressive 291 points, while Kazakhstan (Lyudmila Yakovleva & Pavel Ilyashenko) were equally solid on horseback with the third-highest score of 286 points.

FENCING

The Fencing Ranking Round set the tone for much of what was to come as Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Shaban) dominated with 28 victories. For good measure they added another four points to their tally in the Fencing Bonus Round to extend their overall lead.

Korea (Kim/Jun) notched 27 victories while there was a three-way tie for third with Great Britain (Bryson/Pillage), Spain (Laura Heredia & Aleix Heredia Vives) and United States (Jessica Davis & Brendan Anderson) each achieving 25 victories.

Great Britain (Bryson/Pillage) added six points in a productive bonus round with



The changeover in the Swimming discipline is always one of the more frenetic moments in a Mixed Relay Final

Hungary (Sarolta Simon & Balazs Szep) moving up the leaderboard thanks to 10 bonus points.

SWIMMING

With Egypt now building up a significant gap, the pool offered Korea (Kim/Jun) the chance to get closer to the leaders ahead of the Laser Run. However, Abdelmaksoud and Shaban (EGY) remained focused and clocked the day's fastest time with a rapid 1:56.70. Kim and Jun (KOR) weren't too far behind in 1:56.92.

The Swimming prowess of Pillage (GBR) enabled the host nation a chance to move up the standings and he duly delivered, turning a 4sec deficit at the changeover to win the second heat in 1:57.54.

LASER RUN

Korea (Kim/Jun) may have held out some hope of challenging for gold but Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Shaban) had a 17sec lead and were coming off the back of a weekend of stellar Laser Run performances by their team.

While the rest of the field were a distant 39sec behind the Koreans, the battle for bronze was very much alive as just 16sec separated Czech Republic



Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Shaban) celebrate a comfortable win in the Mixed Relay to round off the week

(Hlavackova/Grycz) in 3rd place and China (Shuai Luo & Linzhi Xie) in 9th.

It would have taken some serious misfortune for Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Shaban) to be knocked off the top spot but there was no signs of any errors. Abdelmaksoud (EGY) could even afford a slow second shoot and still hand over with plenty of breathing room.

The race for bronze tightened up when Ozyuksel (TUR) came within striking distance at the changeover. Bryson (GBR) tried to dig in and pull the hosts into medal contention but her efforts in claiming Women's individual bronze

the previous day looked to be taking their toll, leaving the fight for bronze down to Czech Republic (Hlavackova/Grycz) and Türkiye (Ozyuksel/Unal).

Enjoying a commanding lead, Shaban (EGY) had the luxury of tapering things down as he cantered across the finish line to celebrate gold with Korea (Kim/Jun) following and Czech Republic (Hlavackova/Grycz) impressively holding off Türkiye (Ozyuksel/Unal) by 10sec. Great Britain (Bryson/Pillage) were cheered home in 5th ahead of Poland (Maliszewska/Gutkowski), who notched the day's fastest Laser Run time in 12:04.20.

UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships



Bath (GBR) played host to the eighth edition of the UIPM Laser Run World Championships, where the global appeal of the sport was clear

Universal celebration of Laser Run sees new champions crowned and Para athletes take centre stage

The eighth running of the UIPM Laser Run World Championships – held alongside the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships – has been hailed as a resounding success.

Racers of all ages and abilities competed in 37 categories at the University of Bath, including three Para Laser Run categories.

The event reunited athletes of all generations as they competed for world titles in age grades from Under 9 to Masters 70+. With more than 560

athletes representing 33 countries, it was another global showcase of UIPM’s most popular development sport.

The final morning of the competition on August 21 provided a special highlight for spectators and UIPM TV viewers as Para athletes from Egypt, France and Great Britain competed in the first UIPM Para Laser Run World Championships to be live-streamed.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “In the past three days in Bath we saw a fantastic presentation of the UIPM Laser Run World Championships for all generations, from U9 to Masters. This was a universal celebration of the glory of sport.

“We have fantastic facilities here at the University of Bath, and we had athletes competing and cheering each other on surrounded by parents and coaches. Laser Run is a very special pillar of our UIPM movement as a popular urban sport.

“It is fantastic that our movement is taking care of Para Pentathlon athletes and making sure our sport is as inclusive as possible.”

The three days of competition began with a bang when, in mostly overcast conditions in Bath (GBR), 21-year-old Elzbieta Adomaityte of Lithuania claimed the coveted title of senior world champion after comfortably



Competitors of all ages and abilities competed across three days of action at the University of Bath, including three Para Laser Run categories



The UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships were a celebration for all generations of athletes

winning gold ahead of silver medallist Devan Wiebe of Canada and Alexandra Bousfield of Great Britain, who claimed bronze.

Adomaityte (LTU), who won bronze at

the UIPM 2022 Pentathlon Junior World Championships, proved once again that she is following in the footsteps of two of the best Laser Runners of all time, team-mates Laura Asadauskaite and Gintare Venckauskaite.

The following day Pau Salomo of Spain upstaged two high-profile pentathletes with a clinical victory, showing the importance of shooting as he held off the challenge of Alexandre Dallenbach of Switzerland, who in turn forced Shuai Luo of China to accept bronze.

Dallenbach (SUI) recently earned a quota place at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games for his country, while Luo (CHN) is an Asian champion in Modern Pentathlon who became an Olympian at Tokyo 2020. So it was a remarkable performance by Salomo (EGY) in racing twice in one day and very nearly going under the 10min mark in the Final.

The 12 individual golds on offer on the opening were split between six countries, with Germany claiming four, Egypt three and the host nation taking two. Athletes from Latvia and South Africa also became individual world champions on a day of thrilling racing.



The host nation of Great Britain was very well represented at Youth levels during the UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships

There was an eye-catching victory in the Junior Final for Esther Fernandez Donda (GER), while Mika-Leigh Strydom (RSA) won a remarkable cat-and-mouse U15 duel with Menna Mohamed (EGY). The U13 title did, however, go to Egypt thanks to the remarkable U17 Pentathlon world champion, Farida Khalil (EGY).

The host nation dominated U17 as Evelina Powell (GBR) overtook Imogen Edwards (GBR) for gold on the last of four laps, but they couldn't match rivals from mainland Europe at U19 level, where Josefine Unterberger (GER) held off the challenge of twin sisters Katharina and Florina Jurt of Switzerland.

There were two gold medals for Germany at Masters level, where fans enjoyed a interesting 40+ battle between reigning champion Andra Novicka (LAT) and Swiss national team

coach Florence Dinichert OLY, finally won by Novicka (LAT).

On the second day Egypt dominated the male youth categories with four gold medals, while the Spanish came away with a double gold and host nation Great Britain won eight individual medals including one gold. There was also one gold medal apiece for France and Monaco.

One of the day's best performances came in the Junior category from Ivan Liberal (ESP), who fought off the dual local challenge of Sam Cobb (GBR) and James Hulme (GBR). But the home fans got their golden moment when U17 champion Sebastian Forrest (GBR) led a British 1-2-3.

At U11 level there was a thrilling duel won by Eyad Osman (EGY) ahead of Wanru Haasbroek of South Africa, while Abdallah Abdallah (EGY) shot with

sublime speed on the way to winning U13 gold and Mohamed Sherif (EGY) was utterly dominant in the U19 Final.

European athletes dominated the Masters podium, with a strong contingent from France showing the importance of strength in depth including a 1-2 from Julien Bartoli (FRA) and Jean-Luc Sintes (FRA) at 40+.

On the third and closing day Switzerland finished their competition on a high with Katharina Jurt joining Men's Individual silver medallist Alexandre Dallenbach in winning the Mixed Relay by 6sec from Tamara Vega and Lorenzo Macias of Mexico. Lithuania claimed bronze thanks to the dual efforts of Elzbieta Adomaityte and Titas Purnas.

Host nation Great Britain made hay on the final day with a batch of Mixed Relay medals including four golds in the U17, U19, Junior and Masters 60+

categories. Egypt was the most prolific nation across the Championships, winning 12 gold medals in total.

The final morning of the competition on August 21 provided a special highlight for spectators and UIPM TV viewers as Para athletes from Egypt, France and Great Britain competed in the first UIPM Para Laser Run World Championships to be live-streamed.

Individual races were held in the LR4 (wheelchair) category, with Hanin Elkhoully (EGY) becoming the new women's world champion and Abdullah Abdelmawla (EGY) winning the men's race. There was also a mixed gender / mixed classification event for 10 athletes with various physical and visual disabilities.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Senior Women's gold medallist Adomaityte (LTU) said: "I'm in preparation for the Pentathlon World Championships coming on Wednesday, and my coach had the idea to come here and treat it like a training session and just run and focus on my shooting. To have a Semi-final and a Final was really good.

"In the Final, I just put everything together and it feels great to be ready for next week. It's my second time here and it's so much fun, I love the weather because it's refreshing, and the people are so nice and everything is perfect.

"I'd like to thank my coaches and physios, friends and family. It's not just about me, it's everybody who helped me to get here."

Men's counterpart Salomo (ESP) said: "It was a very tough race, I had very good athletes behind me like Alex Dallenbach and Titas Purnas, and it was so hard. I had to push hard in running and I did it and now I'm world champion. If you want to win something, first of all you have to imagine it, then you have to believe it, then you have to do it.

"This is an amazing place to compete,



Tamas Gajdos (HUN) celebrates victory in the Men's Masters 60-69 category at the UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships



Crowds watch on during the all-important changeover of a Mixed Relay event at the UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships

England is one of the best countries in Modern Pentathlon and it's an amazing pleasure to be here and I hope to come back in future.

"I want to thank my team who are here every day pushing me, and my family and friends who are at home watching me."

Junior Women's champion Fernandez Donda (GER) said: "This was a really important competition for me after nine months out with injury, and it's second medal this year after winning the Laser Run at the European Championships, so I'm really happy."

Junior Men's champion Liberal (ESP) said: "At the beginning I thought I was not going to do it, but at the third shoot I put head into mode and then it flowed. I went into competition mode. I didn't

think I would become world champion, I would like to thank my support team and family."

Girls U17 gold medallist Powell (GBR) said: "It was really difficult, my last shoot was definitely my worst, but I felt good and pushed it and managed to overtake and win."

Her U15 counterpart Strydom (RSA) said: "It was very hard, I had to try my best and I just want to thank all the people who helped me and told me to push to the last, as I always do. Thank you to all my friends and family and my parents for bringing me here, and my coach."

Meanwhile U11 winner Roaa Abd Elmaksod (EGY) said: "I did my best in the competition and was concentrating on trying to shoot five out of five."

I couldn't do it and then I had to run very fast to catch everyone. Thank you to everyone in Team Egypt for all your support."

Masters 70+ winner Emily Freund (GER) said: "It was a very fine race and I enjoyed very much. The course was very good. I found my companions here were really supportive and friendly. I like it here."

"You need a lot of discipline, whether you are young or old – you have to train almost every day and do everything your coach tells you. And the only other thing is you have to enjoy the sport."

Men's U19 winner Sherif (EGY) said: "The race was pretty comfortable, I'm very happy to win gold here in beautiful Bath."

2023 African and Oceania Championships



Caption here

Egypt and Australia celebrate Paris 2024 Olympic doubles after combined event in Cairo (EGY)

Four more pentathletes have won Paris 2024 Olympic Games direct qualification quota places for their countries at the 2023 African / Oceania Championships.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt led the way by winning gold in the Men’s Final and becoming African champion, only five days after finishing 4th in the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships in Bath (EGY).

There was a greater element of surprise in the Women’s Final, as 18-year-old gold medallist Malak Ismail (EGY) won the African title and secured her country’s first Paris 2024 place for women, with 19-year-old Genevieve van Rensburg of Australia becoming Oceania champion courtesy of

finishing an impressive 2nd overall.

The top Oceania finisher in the Men’s Final was Rhys Lanskey (AUS), who became the 24th athlete to secure a quota place for their country in the 2024 Games.

Elgendy, 23, defeated his younger brother Mohamed Elgendy (EGY) in the race for gold in their home capital of Cairo, with Eslam Hamed (EGY) completing a host nation 1-2-3 on the podium. Mohanad Shaban (EGY) did not participate after already booking a quota place by winning the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

Lanskey (AUS), 21, won an internal duel with Timothy Oliver (AUS) for Oceania gold, with Naoki Toyamura of New Zealand picking up bronze.

Ismail (EGY) had already become U19 world champion this summer but adding the senior continental title to

her CV was a major accolade, finishing ahead of Van Rensburg (AUS) and two-time Olympian Haydy Morsy (EGY).

African women’s champion Ismail (EGY) said: “Firstly, I want to thank everyone who supported me through this journey, it was a tough season that’s ending very soon after the Junior World Championships, special thanks to my mother, my whole family, coaches and friends.

“This race was a hard one, as it was very strong competition between all the girls and of course a harder one as we were competing for an Olympic quota. “I started Fencing in a good position, then Riding was very good, Swimming was great too and I started Laser Run in 2nd position. In the 3rd lap I was unfortunately in the 3rd position, I remained in this position till the last shooting, I entered it 3rd and got out of the range 1st!

“I don’t believe that I have done it! It was really an amazing and nice race for me. And of course I’m very proud of myself and for this great achievement, and still hungry for more.”

African men’s champion Elgendy (EGY) said: “I’m so happy to be qualified to Paris 2024 through the African Championships, it’s a dream coming true as I am looking forward for a new, historical win in Paris!”

Oceania women’s champion Van Rensburg (AUS) said: “There aren’t enough words for how happy and excited I am. This is honestly a dream come true! I am so grateful for my coaches, friends and family who have supported me through this journey. I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Oceania men’s champion Lanskey (AUS) said: “It has been an honour and a privilege to come to Cairo and compete against some of the world’s

best. Personally It’s been a difficult couple of years battling some injuries, and although I’m still a long way from my best, I am very happy to have come here and won the Oceania Championships and a quota place for Australia at the 2024 Paris Olympics.”

Kitty Chiller OLY, President of the Oceania Modern Pentathlon Confederation, said: “On behalf of the Oceania Confederation I would like to sincerely thank the Egyptian Federation and African Confederation for hosting us in Cairo for this important event. It was extremely well organised and we were made to feel very welcome.

“There was a wonderful spirit of solidarity and support across all countries with everyone competing with respect and fair play. To see the more experienced teams helping the development athletes was wonderful.”

Sharif Elerian OLY, UIPM Vice President,

said: “On behalf of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation and head of the local organising committee for this Paris 2024 qualifying competition for Africa and Oceania, I would like to congratulate CAPM, the African Confederation, for a great competition.

“We had six nations from Africa for the first time in Modern Pentathlon history – Egypt, South Africa, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Mali and Uganda participated with good athletes in both male and female categories. This is a great accomplishment and I’m sure others will follow.

“We saw some great rivalries play out in the Individual Finals today and I congratulate the two athletes from Australia and two from Egypt for winning the quota places for Paris 2024. I wish Africa and Oceania all the best in Paris and I hope in future years to see much more athletes from much more countries from both continents.”



Caption here

VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

Olympic Games countdown: Part V



The River Seine will play a starring role in next summer's Olympic Games in Paris (FRA) and its swimmability will be a lasting legacy of the Games.

Leading off...

Swimming in La Seine for the first time in a century would surely get the Coubertin seal of approval

As the visionary and widely acclaimed father of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin's place in history is both assured and acclaimed.

Across his native France you can find recreational swimming pools named in his honour, a tribute which feels particularly fitting given that the aquatic sport played a central part in Coubertin's creation of Modern Pentathlon.

The Swimming discipline has been a constant from the outset of the sport in 1912, with the distance changing from 300 metres to its current 200 metres after the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

As the Olympics return to his native city of Paris next summer, there is already one legacy of the 2024 Games which would likely earn instant approval from the innovator himself.

From the Coubertin family home of 20 Rue Oudinot in the 7th arrondissement, the banks of the Seine were just a 20-minute stroll away and the great river will be both one of the centrepieces of next summer's Games and a lasting symbol of its positive effect on the city.

The Opening Ceremony of the Games on July 26 next year will see athletes transported 6km along the Seine while two events — Marathon Swimming and Triathlon — are set to take place in its waters after test events in recent weeks.

The Seine has been a no-go zone for would-be Parisian swimmers for over

a century, with water-quality levels falling well below what was deemed safe for human activity and the city banning its residents from entering the waters since 1923.

However, an ambitious €1.4 billion clean-up programme has reduced pollution by over 75%. The newly built Austerlitz storage basin, a cylinder 50m in diameter and more than 30m deep, will store more than 50,000 m³ of water (the equivalent of 20 Olympic swimming pools) to help improve water quality.

The expectation is that all Parisians will be able to wade into the formerly restricted waters of the river within a year of the Games, with Mayor Anne Hidalgo recently announcing three monitored swimming zones which will open in 2025. One high-profile former citizen would surely be very pleased with the development.

> Paris Pointer

Brilliant Hernandez (MEX) ahead of schedule as he confirms Mexican surge and secures qualification place

When Emiliano Hernandez teamed up with Mexico teammate Catherine Mayran Oliver in May to win a Mixed Relay silver at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia, he reacted by saying he hoped the medal could help be a springboard for personal success.

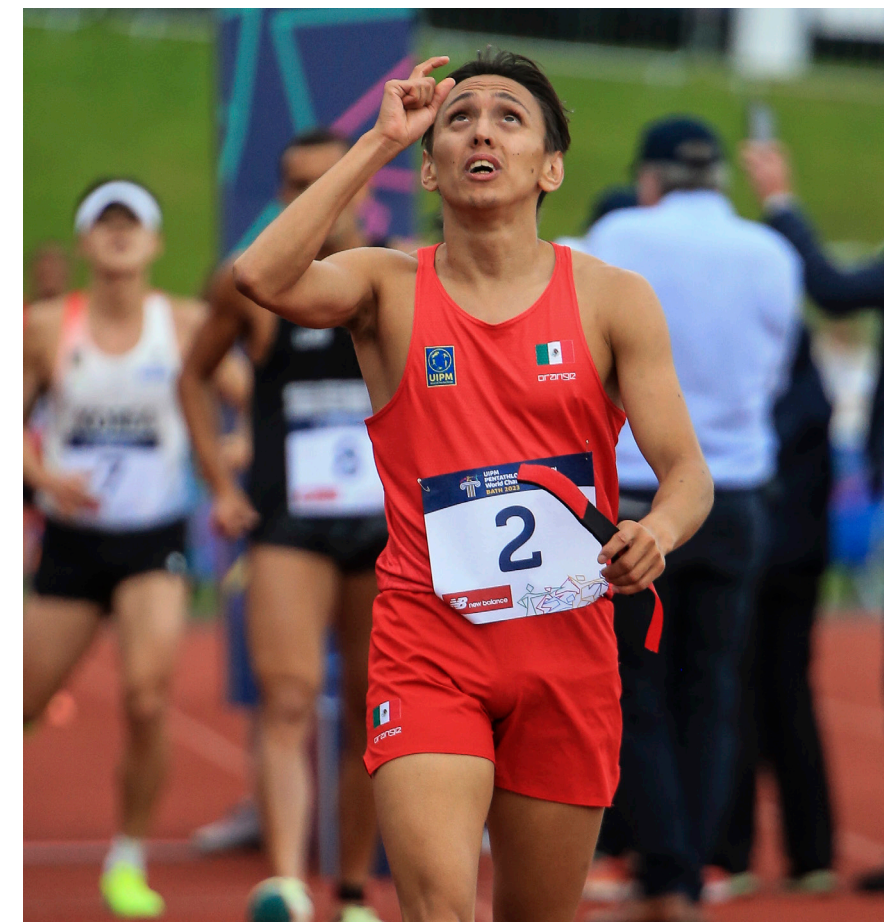
"I hope next year, an Olympic year, it's good to me in individual," he said.

It turned out that Hernandez (MEX) didn't have to wait until 2024. At the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships in Bath (GBR) he became the first pentathlete from the Americas, male or female, to secure a Paris 2024 Olympic Games direct qualification quota place, thanks to a brilliant silver medal in the Men's Final.

That second place followed a very productive June for Hernandez (MEX), who claimed a bronze medal at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara and a gold medal at the 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games in Santo Domingo (DOM). The run of success has propelled the affable 25-year-old to third in the Pentathlon World Rankings.

The Hernandez name, of course, has a special place in Modern Pentathlon's Olympic history after Emiliano's older brother Ismael claimed a breakthrough bronze for Mexico at the Rio Games in 2016. This success did a lot to spark the prolific generation of Mexican athletes which has followed.

In Bath (GBR), women's world No.10 Mariana Arceo (MEX) was in the thick of contention right until the end of the Women's Final, before finishing 6th. Both Catherine Mayran Oliver and Mayan Oliver (MEX) have been impressive this season, particularly in Mixed Relay where Manuel Padilla (MEX) has excelled too.



Emiliano Hernandez (MEX) is looking to follow in his older brother's footsteps as Olympics approach

With the 2023 Pan Am Games coming up in Santiago (CHI), the Mexican team have justifiably high hopes. For his part, Hernandez, was pleased to be the first to grab that all-important Olympic spot.

"I kept the composure and endurance to have a big fight," he said. "I'm really happy we earned the place for Paris 2024, and it's all about teamwork so thanks to my family, my team-mates, my coaches — it's really a lot of work."

Numbers game

15,726 — The distance in kilometres from the most remote venue for next summer's Games and the centre of Paris. The surfing competitions will take place in the village of Teahupo'o in the overseas French territory of Polynesia, pretty much a world away from France's capital city.

Qualification latest

After the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships and 2023 African and Oceania Championships, 24 of the 72 quota places at Paris 2024 have now been claimed.

Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia and Czech Republic (pending validation). **Men:** Egypt (2), Mexico, Italy, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland and Australia.

Now the focus immediately shifts to the remaining 48 places, and next up is the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou (CHN) from September 20-24, where five more places for women and five for men will be secured.

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

OBSTACLE SPOTLIGHT

MoU signed as young athletes give views



UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann and FISO President Ian Adamson mark the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies

UIPM and FISO sign Memorandum of Understanding to oversee global obstacle sport movement

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federation Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles (FISO) with the shared aim of creating a sporting movement with more audience and active participants.

Following its recent incorporation of an Obstacle discipline into Modern Pentathlon, under the terms of the MoU, UIPM will integrate FISO and oversee the wider Obstacle Sport movement.



Action is about to get underway at the UIPM World Obstacle Ninja World Cup in Orlando (USA) which ran from July 27-30

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding is a big step for the future of our Union, based on the decision of UIPM 2022 Congress to vote 83.3% in favour of Obstacle becoming a part of our Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon."

"This was followed by very successful test events and very strong cooperation and understanding in which way we can focus to be more open and more accessible around the world, with more commercial possibilities, to increase the number of nations and to bring our sport to different parts of the world, and in a new way to become a global sport."

"We want to bring a different challenge to the Olympic movement, to be more urban and provide something that young generations will love – and we could see it already in our UIPM U19 and U17 World Championships, with the Junior World Championships still to come in September."

"We can see how young athletes are looking forward to participate in the exciting new combination of sports in the Modern Pentathlon."

FISO President Ian Adamson said: "The signing of an MOU between World Obstacle and World Pentathlon is important because it's a mark of collaboration, and working together is way more powerful than working apart."

"We are bringing our sports together, uniting the Olympic movement with the mass participation, broadcast and viewers – all of that creates a very powerful collaboration. The possibilities created by the integration of World Obstacle into World Pentathlon are incredible. We will have a complete tool set of everything you need to make a truly great and dominant sport in the world."

The MoU was signed during a special ceremony held in Bath (GBR), host of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships. The ceremony included the handover of

a special plaque to Pentathlon GB in honour of its centenary.

Junior and Youth athletes reveal views on Obstacle discipline

The next generation has spoken – again. Following the success of the third of four New Pentathlon Discipline Test Events in 2022, which enabled Youth athletes from around the world to get their first experience of Obstacle, 495 athletes aged 19 and under have now competed in the new-look Modern Pentathlon at world and continental level.

UIPM has interviewed numerous athletes to find out more about their experience of Obstacle as an integrated component of a five-discipline sport, and their feedback can be read below

UIPM 2023 U19 World Championships; Istanbul (TUR) | July 25-30

"I'm so happy, we gave everything to win. I love the new discipline, I liked Riding but the change is really



Malak Ismail (EGY), right, said that the Obstacle discipline was “amazing to compete on” after she got to grips with it in Istanbul (TUR)

great. I think my dream is the same as all other athletes – we want to go to the Olympics and do our best.” – **Florina Jurt (SUI)**, Women’s Relay gold medallist

“I love the change, too. We have ridden for a long time, since we were little, and we liked Riding but Obstacle is good for us because we are great in the discipline. We trained hard to get that far in the discipline. To win the Olympics in Los Angeles is a great goal for us, and together it will be a long and cool journey.” – **Katharina Jurt (SUI)**, Women’s Relay gold medallist

“The Obstacle discipline was very exciting, although hard. It was our first time competing in Obstacle, we trained a little in Korea. Our dream is the Olympic gold medal, in Los Angeles.” – **Juchan Lee and Hanseo Cho (KOR)**, Men’s Relay gold medallists

“I think the Obstacle is good, it’s amazing to compete on. It’s good to see so many young athletes now and they’re happy with the Obstacle discipline. It’s an adventure game!

I’m trying to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympics. It’s a dream for me but I hope to do it and then go to the Los Angeles Olympics after that!” – **Malak Ismail (EGY)**, Women’s Individual & Team gold medallist

“The Obstacle discipline is new this year and we could train as the federation found a way to train so we came well prepared. I have a good feeling about the Obstacle discipline and I think it will be interesting. Obstacle is a very nice discipline, there is a lot of complexity but we can train for it and be better next time and all the time. My dream is to be Olympic champion one day, and it’s a good start, I think, in this competition.” – **Etienne Clergeau (FRA)**, Men’s Individual, Team & Mixed Relay gold medallist

“I think Obstacle is a good discipline. It’s so hard and difficult, and I like this.” – **Coline Flavin (FRA)**, Mixed Relay gold medallist

UIPM 2023 U17 World Championships; Alexandria (EGY) | July 11-16
“Obstacle is really cool, and not too hard, but really intense, really fun. Our

dream is to join the Olympic Games, maybe make a medal in 2028 in Los Angeles.” – **Amaya El-Masri (GER)**, Women’s Relay gold medallist

“It was our first championships with the five disciplines, and we won the race. The Obstacle discipline was so fun.” – **Mohamed Hassan (EGY)**, Men’s Relay gold medallist

“I am very thankful for the inclusion of Obstacle. I love Riding, I love horses, but I think with Riding I would have a very long way to prepare for it and train for it. Obstacle is very easy and quick for me to adapt, and I feel that having five disciplines at this age gave me an advantage.” – **Farida Khalil (EGY)**, Women’s Individual & Team gold medallist

“In Germany we used to go to a hall to train for Obstacle, but we didn’t do it so many times and we will learn it more.” – **Nadja Farmand (GER)**, Women’s Individual & Team silver medallist

“I like the Obstacle discipline, I think I can improve but I like the course.



The Obstacle discipline has won wide acclaim from the next generation of pentathletes after being included in a range of competitions this summer.

I really like the new discipline because it makes a lot of fun to challenge yourself and to improve your abilities. There were many supportive and cheering spectators, which made me want to push myself even more. I really enjoyed the adrenaline kick it gave me. Looking forward to test out new obstacle courses.” – **Florina Jurt (SUI)**

“I loved the inclusion of the exciting new fifth discipline. The new format of competition kept us all on our toes, and competing with a live crowd so close to the course was exhilarating.” – **Ross Charlton (GBR)**, Men’s Relay bronze medallist

Obviously, my dream is to compete in the Olympic Games but for now I just want to keep doing what I am doing and have fun.” – **Annachiara Allara (ITA)**, Women’s Individual bronze medallist

“During the Obstacle discipline, I felt stressed because we don’t know it very well and I couldn’t work it a lot. I find it fun but we didn’t master it yet and I like to master all the disciplines. My dream is to get a gold medal at the Olympic Games.” – **Mathis Issaka Idelarge (FRA)**, Men’s Individual gold medallist

“My dream is to compete in the Los

Angeles Olympics 2028. Obstacle was so much fun, and it felt so good to be competing.” – **Tareq Sadek (EGY)**, Men’s Team gold medallist, Men’s Individual bronze medallist

“The Obstacle discipline was brilliant, we really like that. It’s more inclusive and more people are able to do it. It’s really fun!” – **Sebastian Forrest (GBR)**, Mixed Relay gold medallist

2023 European Junior Championships; Istanbul (TUR) | June 14-19
“It’s nice to see that hard work pays off.

2023 European U19/U17 Ch’ships; Druskininkai (LTU) | June 1-9
“In my opinion, the Obstacle was nice, I didn’t have problems with it. It’s like a showcase and it’s quite fun if you’re good at it, but showjumping will always beat it. The only minuses are, as I saw in other athletes, the hand injuries with the skin cuts. But if you take care of them, they are not that bad.” – **Nojus Chmieliauskas (LTU)**, Men’s Relay gold medallist.

News from around the world



The UIPM Executive Board met over two days at the University of Bath

UIPM confirms 2024 hosts and awards Pierre de Coubertin Medals and Hall of Fame honours

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has announced competition hosts for 2024 as the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships approaches its climax.

The city of Zhengzhou in China will host the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships. A symbolic handover will take place between the Chinese and British delegations on

Monday at the end of this year's flagship competition.

On the second day of a UIPM Executive Board (EB) meeting that took place at the University of Bath, the following competition hosts for 2024 were decided:

- UIPM 2024 Junior World Championships – **Egypt**
- UIPM 2024 U19 World Championships – **Lithuania**
- UIPM 2024 U17 World Championships – **Portugal**
- UIPM 2024 U15 World Championships – **Guatemala**

- UIPM 2024 Biathle-Triathle World Championships – **Egypt**

The EB made its decisions the morning after UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann inducted eight people to the UIPM Hall of Fame and awarded two UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Medals at a special ceremony in the Pump Rooms at the Roman Baths.

A joint reception held by UIPM and Pentathlon GB, which is celebrating its centenary in 2023, also enabled the National Federation to present lifetime achievement awards to individuals



Olympians Heather Fell and James Cooke (GBR) make special presentations to long-serving members of the Pentathlon GB community

who have given exceptional service to Modern Pentathlon.

The UIPM Hall of Fame was instituted in 2016 and now consists of 23 recipients. The eight 2023 entrants are:

- **Emile Jarrot** (FRA) – posthumous
- **Jeremy 'Jim' Fox** (GBR) – posthumous
- **Kuisung Choi** (KOR)
- **Gyula Bretz** (HUN)
- **Dorota Idzi** (POL)
- **Kitty Chiller** (AUS)
- **Alain Lunzenfichter** (FRA)
- **James S. Davis** (USA)

Two outstanding servants from the host nation of the ongoing UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships were also honoured with the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Medal during the reception:

- **Major Terry Bunyard**
- **Georgina Harland**

President Dr Schormann said: "We had a very special evening hosted by Pentathlon GB in association with UIPM, and it was an opportunity to recognise volunteers and distinguished servants for their lifetime achievement in Modern Pentathlon, and to celebrate 100 years of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Great Britain and the 75th

anniversary of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne.

"We also gave special Pierre de Coubertin awards to two long-serving members of our community, Terry Bunyard and Georgina Harland, and we inducted eight individuals into the UIPM Hall of Fame.

"It was very special to hear several inductees making such touching speeches after receiving their certificates, which really underlined the way our society is based on respect for the legacy of Coubertin. There was also a special moment when Jim Fox's grandson Ben accepted the award on behalf of his late grandfather.

"It was a very special occasion and we have to thank all involved, including the Bath and North East Somerset Council and the University of Bath who have supported us so well in hosting the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships."

Two leading British Olympic pentathletes, Beijing 2008 silver medalist Heather Fell and 2018 world champion James Cooke, appeared on stage to present lifetime achievement awards to Bill and Jan Bland, Jean

Childs, Howard Jones, Mick Flaherty, Phillip Hobbs, Martin Dawe, Dr Paul Jackson, Jan Bartu, Jabeena Maslin and Tristan Robbie.

Meanwhile the Riding Working Group formed by UIPM after the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games also met in Bath (GBR), with the following resolutions:

- The Working Group acknowledged the improvement in athlete safety and animal welfare in UIPM competitions but recognised there is room for further progress.
- The Working Group is committed to the continued monitoring of athletes' Riding abilities in the build-up to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- The Working Group discussed numerous initiatives, which will be defined and communicated in due course to support the overall aim of continued improvement in the Riding discipline.
- UIPM will continue to work closely with local organisers to ensure high standards at competitions and continue to encourage National Federations to promote the initiatives presented by UIPM in collaboration with the Riding Working Group.



Hungarian athlete Sarolta Simon (HUN) encouraged fellow athletes to pursue the World Academy of Sports (WAoS) scholarship programme

Simon (HUN) urges fellow athletes to apply for 'fantastic' World Academy of Sports scholarship

UIPM continues to assist pentathletes with their educational and career pathways.

For the sixth time, pentathletes have been invited to apply for scholarships to gain an online qualification in Sport Management from the prestigious University of London (UoL).

The offer is part of a Memorandum of Understanding between UIPM and the World Academy of Sport (WAoS) initiated in 2020.

After four successful intakes already, eight representatives from the Modern Pentathlon community including elite pentathletes Georgia Hannam (GBR), Ipek Aksin (TUR), Ekaterina Khuraskina (RUS), Sarolta Simon (HUN) and Mattia Parisi (ITA) have earned a postgraduate

certificate in International Sports Management and advanced their career by gaining a globally recognized university qualification.

The course has core modules that cover key areas of strategy, leadership, governance and financial management in sport, with two further elective modules.

Scholarships are available for all participants who fulfil the criteria, and one strong candidate will be supported with 100% of the course fee. Up to 10 candidates can also secure a 25% scholarship to cover a quarter of the total course fee (GBP4,088). The ideal candidate for the full scholarship will be an elite pentathlete who is still active or beginning the transition into a post-athletic career.

To be eligible to receive the scholarship for the PGCert ISM, applicants should:

- Have an existing undergraduate degree (eg Bachelor's degree) or a minimum of 5 years' relevant work experience and professional references.
- An English language level of IELTS: at least 6.5 overall, with 6.0 in the written test or other equivalent proficiency certification. If English is not your first language and you do not have a language certification, you will be asked to write an additional 500-word essay on a selected topic.
- Access to a computer and internet.

Sarolta Simon (HUN) said: "This scholarship gives me a fantastic possibility to study at the University of London besides my preparation for Olympic qualification. After the first semester I learned a lot about sport financial questions.

"I really believe these studies let me



UIPM CCP Level 3 Coach Cristobal Rodriguez (ESP) and the 16 participants in the recent Coaches Certification Programme course in Dhaka (BGD)

know more about my favourite theme, sport management. I suggest this University for everyone who would like to study in English and wants to know more about international sport management. The teachers are helpful and professional."

The demand for highly qualified managers in the sports industry is increasing. A postgraduate qualification can give students the extra level of skill needed to progress.

The Athletes' Opportunities section of UIPM's Athletes Centred Programme (ACP) provides all registered athletes with a list of opportunities from UIPM and partners including international Olympic and sports organizations. Click here to register for the ACP. All scholarship applications will be evaluated by WAoS, the University of London and UIPM. For any questions please contact the UIPM Educational team.

Coaches Certification Programme: New cohort of coaches as Bangladesh continues its strong growth

As UIPM sports continue their rapid growth across the Asian

confederation, South Asia has become one of many regions in the continent seeing interest levels spike.

Having qualified people in place to harness such interest has been a key focus for UIPM and with that in mind, there was much to celebrate in recent weeks in Bangladesh.

Sixteen eager participants began their journey with a hugely successful UIPM Coaches Certification Programme course which saw all involved pass with flying colours and take their first official steps on the coaching ladder.

The week-long Level 1 course which featured four women and 12 men ran from August 8-12 in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, a country of almost 170 million people. It was overseen by UIPM CCP Level 3 Coach Cristóbal Rodríguez (ESP) at the Sheikh Rasel Roller Skating Stadium in the city.

The course follows on from a historic first ever Global Laser Run City Tour competition in Dhaka last December and builds on a very proactive approach from the national federation.

Mr. Faiz Ahmed, Secretary General of

the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Bangladesh, said: "This is a significant milestone for our sport and indeed our country. We are very eager to continue the growth of UIPM sports in Bangladesh and having this new batch of coaches who have achieved their Level 1 certification will only help that.

"I wish to thank the UIPM for their support in organising this course and look forward to more positive developments here in Bangladesh."

Christian Roudaut, Chair of the UIPM Coaches Committee, added: "The UIPM Coaches Certification Programme continues to offer opportunities for coaches in all regions and continents respecting all levels of development.

"It is so pleasing for me to hear of the success of the recent course in Dhaka, which enabled a strong cohort of Bangladeshi female and male coaches to achieve their first step on the ladder. Our coach Cristóbal reported that there was a clear growth and improvement in all participants as the week went on. My thanks go out to Cristóbal and everyone from the Bangladesh federation who was involved in this important course."

Inside UIPM

President Dr Klaus Schormann's activities



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, above and on facing page, with Pierre de Coubertin Medal winners and UIPM Hall of Fame inductees

19.-28.08.2023: Bath, GBR

During the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon & Laser Run World Championships, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had opportunities to welcome UIPM sponsors, Olympic friends and officials, former pentathletes and long-time contributors of the sport.

In his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Laser Run World Championships he underlined the big success of this development sport as a global showcase of urban sport within the UIPM movement. President Dr Schormann also welcomed the strong development of Para Pentathlon, which shows that UIPM includes all societies of the sport community in its multi-sport movement.

On August 24, UIPM celebrated its 75th anniversary together with Pentathlon GB, which was celebrating its 100th anniversary. New members of the UIPM Hall of Fame were inducted: Emile Jarrot

(received by Joel Bouzou); Jeremy Fox (received by his grandson, Benjamin); Kuisung Choi (received by Sangkeong Yeo); Gyula Bretz, Dorota Idzi, Kitty Chiller, Alain Lunzenfichter and James S Davis (received by Matthew Barnes).

President Dr Schormann also awarded the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Medal to Major Terry Bunyard and Georgina Harland in the fantastic Pump Rooms in the Roman Baths.

During a two-day UIPM Executive Board meeting in the University of Bath, the UIPM President briefed EB colleagues on matters of international sporting politics, including the ongoing military occupation of Ukraine, which has led to the establishment of an independent UIPM panel that will now start to work on applications from athletes from Belarus and Russia who want to compete as neutral athletes in UIPM international competitions.

President Dr Schormann, Secretary

General Shiny Fang and Vice President Joel Bouzou also briefed the EB on recent developments in relation to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games sporting programme. Discussion also surrounded UIPM's integration of World Obstacle based on a Memorandum of Understanding, and the future structure of UIPM Confederations.

On the second day of the meeting, the EB awarded UIPM competitions in 2024 to Egypt, Guatemala, Lithuania and Portugal after online and offline presentations by the various bidding teams.

In a special ceremony on August 26, the UIPM President presented Pentathlon GB – as one of the oldest Modern Pentathlon Federations – with an oak tree bronze plaque as a symbol of the strength and deep roots of the sport.

President Dr Schormann was joined by Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin in presenting the award to





UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang with (clockwise from top) IOC Honorary Member Eng Gumel Ahmed and ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti; Pentathlon GB Chair Diana Hunter and Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin; and with visiting UIPM sponsors

Pentathlon GB Chair, Diana Hunter, underlining the great development, expertise, experience and outstanding performance of the NF over the years.

UIPM also welcomed the President of the International Obstacle Sports Federation (FISO), Ian Adamson, together with a FISO / Spartan Race delegation, to further strengthen their future partnership.

The UIPM President was joined by the FISO President, as well as UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang and FISO Board Member Giles Chater, in signing a Memorandum of Understanding

which underlines the process of UIPM integrating Obstacle as a new discipline in place of Riding.

This year already the UIPM U17 and U19 World Championships took place with Obstacle as a new discipline, with the UIPM Junior World Championships still to come, and all senior events will incorporate the new discipline starting in 2025 after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

President Dr Schormann welcomed HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco to the World Championships and thanked the UIPM Honorary President for his strong

and ongoing support of all actions. They shared thoughts about international sports politics in this difficult time around the world.

Together with Francesco Ricci Bitti (President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations), President Dr Schormann discussed important matters of the Olympic movement, underlining the specific role of sport in modern society for health integration, education, respect, independence and peace.

They discussed how the Olympic Movement must stay as a strong

pillar around the globe, bound by the word “together” which became more important during the past year and is reinforced by fair actions in solidarity day by day.

During these days, UIPM was also privileged Eng Gumel Ahmed (IOC Honorary Member) as an honoured guest, and President Dr Klaus Schormann welcomed sponsors and discussed possibilities around present and future partnerships, while briefing them about Modern Pentathlon and UIPM multi-sport development opportunities.

The Modern Pentathlon team for Paris 2024 also visited the competition as part of preparations for next year’s Olympic Games. The delegation included MP Sports Manager Gustavo Cerquiera, Technical Operations Manager Margot Laplaine, Service Manager Alix Sibiodon and Riding Manager Christophe Boisson.

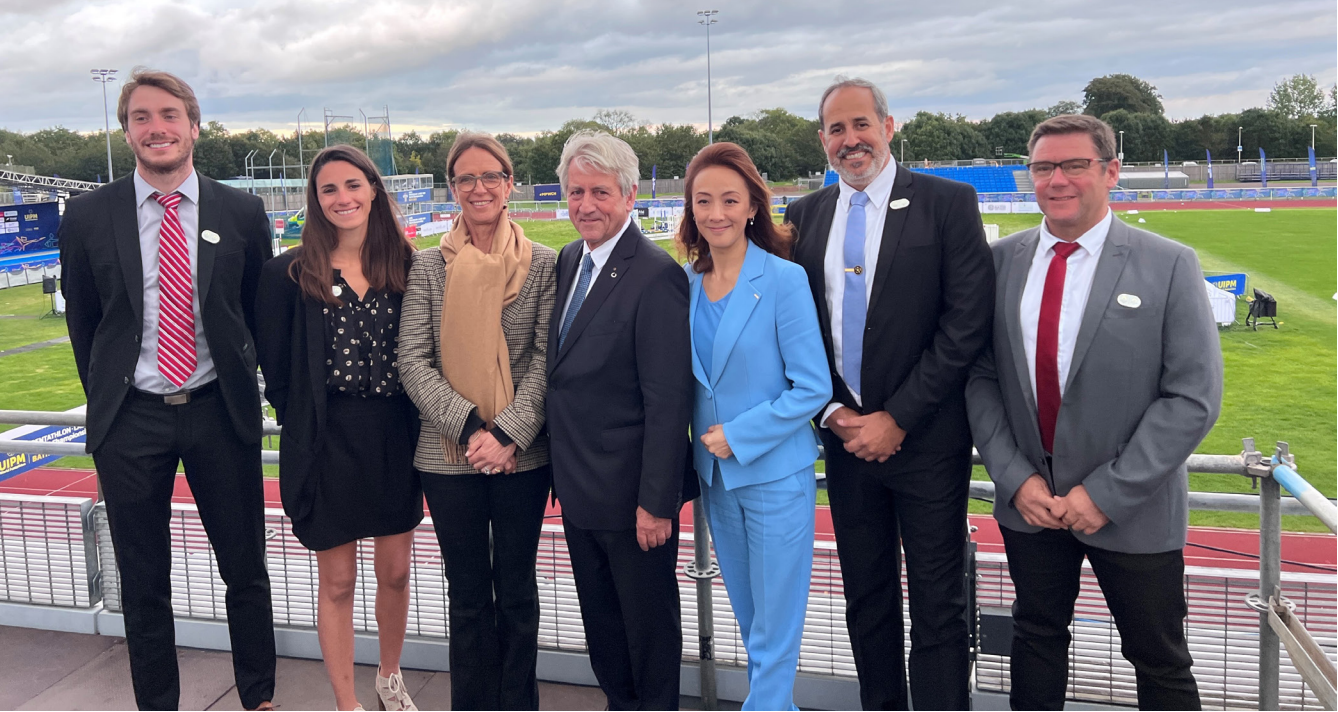
The UIPM President and Secretary General discussed important points with them relating to the new Modern Pentathlon format and the 90-minute showpiece. They also facilitated a special exchange of information between the



UIPM Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco is greeted by UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann (above) before handing over the gold medal to world champion Elena Micheli (ITA)



UIPM Executive Board Members with Alexandra Navacelle de Coubertin (back row, third left), ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti (front row, 7th from left), UIPM Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (front row, 7th from right) and IOC Honorary Member Eng Gumel Ahmed (front row, 2nd from right)



Members of the Paris 2024 organising team with UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang in Bath (GBR)

organising teams of Paris 2024 and the UIPM 2023 World Championships.

On August 28, UIPM had a Riding Working Group meeting to discuss

the next steps based on the Riding performance for the upcoming events until Paris 2024. UIPM wants to ensure that the safety of athletes as well as for the horse is given and also looks forward

to a good presentation at the Paris Olympic Games where Riding will be part of the Olympic Modern Pentathlon at the last time. As UIPM President, Dr Schormann opened the meeting.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired a meeting of the UIPM Riding Working Group on the last day of the 2023 World Championships

Inside UIPM

Secretary General Shiny Fang's message

My reflections on Bath and where we go from here

As our flagship annual event, the UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships always carries a high-priority status.

This year's competition felt like an especially significant milestone, not only because of the progress that has evidently been made by the 54 nations that participated, but also because of the important meetings and decisions that took place behind the scenes in Bath (GBR).

To see 800 athletes from 54 countries competing across 10 days of Pentathlon, Laser Run and Para Laser Run demonstrated the growth of the sport at both development and elite levels.

The competitive level of Laser Run has clearly increased, while in Pentathlon, competition was clearly fierce with Paris 2024 Olympic qualification on the line, but also fair. Not only does our sport create the most complete athletes, they also compete in the best possible spirit.

On the organisational side, the local team led by Pentathlon GB arranged and conducted the events professionally and effectively, gaining respect from all stakeholders. UIPM officials, delegates and staff team as usual delivered their best and I'm proud to be part of this tireless and talented team.

On August 26, there was a historic moment as UIPM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Obstacle Sports Federation (FISO) with the shared aim of creating a sporting movement with more audience and active participants. I see three main benefits of this agreement:



1. UIPM's integration of FISO will broaden the base of our sport, attracting new viewers and a new athlete community for future Olympic Games.

2. It allows for a growing trend sport to be directly governed by an IOC-recognised Olympic sport federation, which will add more value to the Olympic movement, in line with current and future youth-oriented Olympic innovations.

3. On the ground it will create significant opportunities and possibilities based on the size and interests of millions of Obstacle sports participants of all kinds, enabling us to leverage the existing impact of broadcast and digital profile held by influencers, stars and opinion leaders across the community.

As we await the outcome of our proposal for a new Modern Pentathlon including Obstacle to be confirmed on the programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, there are a few key priorities as we move forward from a memorable couple of weeks in Bath.

As members of the UIPM Riding Working Group pointed out during their meeting in Bath, we need to continuously improving the Riding event across all possible aspects before

Paris 2024 and coordinate with related parties for the best possible Olympic preparation.

- Working with UIPM stakeholders and National Federations to make the sport more and more accessible, and to provide all possible support and services to the people working hard on development in all regions and corners of the world.

- Keep improving the presentation and understandability of Modern Pentathlon to attract new spectators and audiences, especially to be attractive for youth generations.

- To be open-minded in embracing the collective efforts of our new broader community, to keep building a much bigger base for all of our multi-discipline sports.

- Aiming to be a sustainable international organisation through all dimensions of services to enhance the level and the quality of UIPM Sports in all relevant areas.

I am grateful to everyone whose teamwork enabled us to put on a great show in Bath and whose efforts, in the longer term, are helping to futureproof Modern Pentathlon for the benefit of tomorrow's athletes and fans.

Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at August 31, 2023

MEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	210
2	EGY	Mohanad SHABAN	210
3	MEX	Emiliano HERNANDEZ	205
4	HUN	Csaba BOHM	179
5	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	177
6	KOR	Woongtae JUN	175
7	KOR	Changwan SEO	159
8	ITA	Giorgio MALAN	154
9	FRA	Valentin PRADES	152
10	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	150
11	GER	Marvin DOGUE	149
12	CZE	Martin VLACH	148
13	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	140
14	HUN	Balazs SZEP	140
15	CHN	Linbin ZHANG	130
16	GBR	Myles PILLAGE	129
17	CZE	Marek GRYZ	128
18	JPN	Taishu SATO	127
19	ITA	Matteo CICINELLI	120
20	FRA	Pierre DEJARDIN	119

WOMEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	ITA	Elena MICHELI	208
2	ITA	Alice SOTERO	201
3	GBR	Kerenza BRYSON	190
4	GER	Rebecca LANGREHR	176
5	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	173
6	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	168
7	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	160
8	GBR	Olivia GREEN	159
9	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	157
10	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	157
11	LTU	Ieva SERAPINAITE	153
12	ESP	Laura HEREDIA	153
13	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	149
14	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	148
15	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSoud	142
16	GBR	Jessica VARLEY	139
17	HUN	Blanka GUZI	136
18	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	130
19	ITA	Alessandra FREZZA	124
20	GBR	Emma WHITAKER	122

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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