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UIPM 2018
PENTATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jamie Cooke (GBR) seals an incredible comeback by defeating Valentin Prades (FRA) on the finish line to win Men’s Individual gold at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City (MEX)
The third day of competition, the Mixed experience for spectators, athletes, venue and guaranteeing a better disciplines accommodated in one the world, with all five pentathlon Pentathlon Stadium was revealed to unforgettable moments in Mexico a number of very special and Pentathlon competition featured pentathlon on show in Mexico City (MEX).

Apart from those historic moments, there were extraordinary moments of live action, culminating in one of the most dramatic finishes ever seen in Modern Pentathlon when Jamie Cooke (GBR) came from behind to overtake Valentin Prades (FRA) on the finish line and become world champion.

The highly experienced Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR) said: “This was the first time in history we have used a Pentathlon

Relay, coincided with the 1st Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day, which gave the global UIPM community the chance to celebrate being part of a sporting movement that was initiated by Coubertin early in the 20th century which has been growing ever since.

Global television viewers on a record number of networks had the opportunity to watch the competition on TV and digital platforms after 24 networks signed up to broadcast live (or ‘as live’) coverage. This resulted in a record 92 hours of live broadcasting time, reaching a potential 396 million homes.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “This was the first time in history we have used a Pentathlon

Stadium, where all five disciplines can be presented in one venue. This has been a historic milestone for our union.

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

“The idea of the Pentathlon Stadium is ‘one sport, five disciplines, one ticket, one seat ... within five hours’ and we are very excited to introduce this innovative concept in partnership with our hosts here in Mexico City.

“I pay tribute to the host country and the organising committee, under the leadership of Horacio de la Vega, and the national federation, Juan Manzo and all the volunteers.”

Juan Manzo, Vice-President of UIPM and President of the Mexico Modern Pentathlon Federation, said: “We were very proud to have the first Pentathlon Stadium here. In Modern Pentathlon we were proud to make the competition in one day, we were proud when women started to compete in the World Championships ... we have a tradition of innovation in our sport.

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

The new and innovative Pentathlon Stadium concept was unveiled to the world on the opening day. As the finest elite athletes from almost 40 countries gathered there was a collective sense of excitement about the unique venue which had been created at the Campo Marte sports complex.

The Pentathlon Stadium, which requires a swimming pool to be built into the field of play, will be a feature of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games – and Mexico City has become the first host city to trial the concept.

UIPM devised the all-in-one stadium concept with the aim of improving the spectacle of Modern Pentathlon for spectators, both on site and watching remotely, to support athletes and to provide more value for media, sponsors and VIP guests.

Two-time Olympic pentathlete Horacio de la Vega, President of the Local Organising Committee and Sports Director for the Mexico City Mayor’s office, said: “We are very happy and motivated because it has been a long time, 20 years, since we had a World Championship here.

“It’s an honour that we will be the first event to include a Pentathlon Stadium. A dream has come true.”

Women’s Relay: Belarus make history

Belarus became the first team to cross the line in a Pentathlon Stadium as Iryna Prasiantsova and Anastasiya Prokopenko claimed gold in the Women’s Relay on the opening day of the championships.

It was a landmark day for the sport, with an all-in-one venue enabling athletes to perform their five disciplines in one venue in the space of five hours. The new concept immediately won praise from world No.6 Prokopenko (BLR).
who said: “It’s an amazing place for us because you can do everything in one place, and you can rest between events.”

Belarus (Prasiantsova / Prokopenko) performed consistently all day, and when they lined up for the Laser Run only 8sec behind leaders Yang Soojin and Choi Juhye of Korea, it was clear they would make a strong push for gold.

In the end they won by an impressive margin of 17sec ahead of silver medallists Ronja Steinborn and Annika Schleu of Germany, with Sofia Cabrera and Sophia Hernandez of Guatemala a further 11sec behind and picking up bronze.

Prasiantsova (BLR) said: “I feel incredible, it’s an amazing feeling because we are world champions. It was not an easy day but we stuck together and managed to achieve everything we could.”

Schleu (GER) had won gold in this event two years running with the 2008 Olympic champion, Lena Schoeneborn, at her side. She said: “It was quite a good start, it was my first time without Lena but Ronja is my training partner and team-mate anyway.

“Fencing was quite good, Swimming was really fast, we had a few problems in Riding with two bad decisions, but Laser Run is one of our best disciplines and we were able to show this, so we are happy.”

Steinborn (GER) added: “I think it’s quite hard because of the altitude, but we have some time to rest before the individual event. We had three weeks of altitude training at a camp in France before coming here, so we hope we are prepared.”

Guatemala (Cabrera / Hernandez) claimed a bronze medal to add to the gold they won at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon Junior World Championships only a few weeks earlier in Kladno (CZE).

Hernandez (GUA) said: “In the Laser Run we just smashed it. We had a lot of confidence in our training. But we didn’t come here expecting to win or anything, we just wanted to have fun and enjoy it, do the best way we can, and that’s what happened.”

Behind the top three, China (Bian Yufei / Zhang Xiaonan) held on the 4th place they had occupied throughout the Laser Run, but Hungary (Blanka Guzi / Michelle Gulyas) moved up to 5th as they finished ahead of 6th-placed Korea (Yang/Choi).

Swimming
Russia (Ludmila Tebekina / Svetlana Lebedeva) set a blistering pace in the pool as they crept under 2min with a time of 1:59.98, way ahead of Hungary (Guzi/Gulyas) in 2:04.63 and China (Bian/Zhang) in 2:05.06.

Fencing
Korea (Yang/Choi) shaded top spot in the Ranking Round with an impressive return of 33V/15D, two victories more than Russia (Tebekina/Lebedeva) with China (Bian/Zhang) close behind on 30V/18D.

Hosts Mexico finished 8th thanks to a strong comeback by Karol Gonzalez and Catherine Mayan Oliver.

Belarus (Prasiantsova / Prokopenko) also performed very well with 29V/19D and they showed excellent opportunism to claim four points in the Bonus Round to inch up the leaderboard.

Riding
Russia (Tebekina/Lebedeva) came unstuck on horseback, suffering elimination, while France (Manon Barbaza / Julie Belhamri) were unable to start.

That left the door open for the other nations pushing for prominence but Belarus and Korea (279), Germany (276) and China (273) all suffered significant damage, opening up the
field completely. It was Guatemala (Cabrera/Hernandez) who took most advantage with an almost performance score of 299. Mexico (Gonzalez/Oliver) and Argentina (Pamela Zapata / Ayelen Zapata) also fared well in Riding with scores of 293.

Laser Run
Although Korea (Yang/Choi) and China (Bian/Zhang) started first, they were quickly overtaken by the three nations that would end up on the podium. And when Prasiantsova (BLR) handed over to Prokopenko (BLR) in pole position, there was little doubt that one of the world’s best Laser Runners would finish the job.

Behind them, Guatemala (Cabrera/Hernandez) pushed Germany (Steinborn/Schleu) hard but ultimately it was two-time champion Schleu (GER) who took ownership of silver. UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “We saw two European nations on the top of the podium but to see Guatemala in 3rd place is fantastic, and we saw how all the nations presented themselves today and enjoyed the historic occasion of the first Pentathlon Stadium.”

Men’s Relay: Friends reunited as France win gold
Seven years after they became junior world champions, Valentin Belaud and Alexandre Henrard teamed up again to claim gold for France in the Men’s Relay.

The two athletes have taken very divergent paths in UIPM Sports, with Belaud (FRA) becoming individual pentathlon world champion in 2016 and Henrard (FRA) winning multiple world titles in the development sports of Biathle, Triathle and Laser Run.

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Belaud (FRA) said: “It’s a good start to the championships, and it was nice to compete with Alexandre for the first time since the Junior World Championships in 2013.

“Now we are seniors and today was very good, Alex had a great day and I would like to thank him. In the Laser Run he allowed me to take first place; the Czech man [Vlach] was very strong-running Belaud (FRA), who Lazer Run but was reined in by the strong-running Belaud (FRA), who

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France (Henrard/Belaud) were almost denied gold by Jan Kuf and Martin Vlach of Czech Republic. Vlach (CZE) led at the start of the final lap of the Laser Run but was reined in by the strong-running Belaud (FRA), who eventually prevailed by a 0.5sec margin.

Bulgaria (Todor Mihaichev / Yavor Peshkelevski) were surprise bronze medallists, having started the Laser Run in 7th place, and their delight was clear as they stepped off the podium with their prizes.

In fact, all the medallists were in a state of elation, and they all admitted that the experience of competing in the world’s first Pentathlon Stadium was one of the reasons for their satisfaction.

Belaud (FRA) said: “It’s a good start to the championships, and it was nice to compete with Alexandre for the first time since the Junior World Championships in 2013.

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“With five sports in the same arena it’s a very good atmosphere for the public, and it’s very easy for us too.”

Henrard (FRA) added: “There wasn’t one discipline that stood out, we just did what we know to do and that’s why we won today. Tomorrow I am looking forward to competing in the Mixed Relay with Emma Riff.”

“The Pentathlon Stadium is awesome for us because we don’t have to travel between the different events, and for the people who come to see the competition it’s really great.”

Kuf (CZE) said: “We didn’t make any big mistakes, so that was the main reason for today’s medal, I guess. The venue is really nice, it’s great to have everything in one place, and the only difficult thing is the altitude.”

Vlach (CZE) added: “I focused on my Shooting, and that went well but I was up against Valentin Belaud, who is probably the best athlete in Modern Pentathlon.”

Peshkelevski (BUL) said: “It’s amazing to get a senior medal, once in a lifetime. I would say our best event today was the Laser Run. We were calm in the Shooting and with a strong run we reached the podium. “The Pentathlon Stadium is amazing, and if we didn’t have this stadium here we probably wouldn’t have reached the podium. Everything is in one place, we can rest between the disciplines and concentrate. It’s a great venue.”

Belarus followed up on their Women’s Relay win as Yaraslau Radziuk and Ilya Palazkov finished 4th, one place ahead of China duo Zhang Yu and Luo Shuai. Russia (Oleg Naumov / Egor Puchkarevsky) finished sixth having started the Laser Run 1sec off the lead.

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Swimming  
There was little to separate the fastest swimmers as Russia (Naumov/Puchkarevskiy) and Japan (Taishu Sato / Hikaru Shimano) each timed narrowly under 1min 50sec and claimed 33 points. China (Zhang/Luo) were next fastest with 1:50.66 for 329 points.

Fencing  
Russia were prominent on the piste, too, as Naumov and Puchkarevskiy claimed 29/11D in the Ranking Round and added two points in the Bonus Round.

Ukraine (Dmytro Baliuik / Dmytro Kirpulyanskyy) scored 22V/12D while Kazakhstan (Pavel Ilyashenko / Vladislav Michshenko) and Czech Republic (Kuf/Vlach) were only one victory behind them.

Riding  
Once again, there was very little to separate the leading protagonists and 10 of the 18 relay teams scored between 291 and 293 out of a possible 300 points.

There were only two exceptions to the high standard of horsemanship as misfortune visited Egypt (Ahmed Hamed / Sherif Rashid), who conceded 67 penalty points, and Korea (Kim Soenjin / Lee Wooin), whose elimination ended their hopes of securing a third successive gold medal in this event.

Laser Run  
Competition having been so tight all day, there was a lot of congestion at the start line. Ukraine (Baliuk/Kirpulyanskyy) started first, albeit only 1sec ahead of Russia (Naumov/Puchkarevskiy), with France (Henrard/Belaud) and Czech Republic (Kuf/Vlach) only a matter of seconds behind them.

Henrard (FRA) took the lead in the early stages but was accompanied closely by Kuf (CZE), and their duel developed into a straight race for gold.

After the final visit to the shooting range, Vlach (CZE) embarked on the final lap in the lead, but Belaud (FRA) summoned the spirit of Moscow 2016 – when he chased down Alexander Lesun (RUS) to win the individual world title – to catch up with and overtake his rival.

Mixed Relay: Germany demonstrate strength in depth  
They may describe themselves as the ‘B team’ of Modern Pentathlon in Germany but Rebecca Langrehr and Fabian Liebig definitely performed their ‘A game’ as they became world champions in the Mixed Relay on #PentathlonDay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Langrehr (GER) added: “Before the run I just concentrated and tried to think about training because if I thought it was the competition, I wouldn’t be so calm, I would have freaked out.”

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

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

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

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

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

‘I really want to congratulate Emma and thank her. She is young and she did a wonderful job. I was doing the Men’s Relay yesterday so it was more complicated for me but I really want to congratulate her, because it’s thanks to her that we are third.’
Swimming
France (Riff / Henrard) got the competition off to a strong start with their time of 1:57.37, although Russia (Anna Buriak / Oleg Naumov) and Hungary (Gulyas/Bruckmann) were only a few tenths of a second slower.

Fencing
It was on the piste that Germany (Langrehr/Liebig) really did the most damage to their opponents’ medal ambitions, scoring a very impressive 25V/5D in the Ranking Round and adding two points in the Bonus Round. The next-best performers with epee in hand were Hungary (Gulyas/Bruckmann), who scored 21V/9D, while United States (Naomi Ross / Seamus Millett) managed 18V/12D. China (Zhang/Li) added four bonus points and Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) boosted their score by three.

Riding
Two teams managed a perfect score in the equestrian arena, and there was joy for the home crowd as Mexico (Mireles/Flores) went round clear along with Czech Republic (Pribilova/Polivka). Germany (Langrehr/Liebig) and France (Riff / Henrard) remained on course for the podium with solid scores of 293.

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

The battle for bronze was the most intense, with Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko) repeatedly asking questions of France (Riff/Henrard), only to find that their rivals’ rapid running more than compensated for their sometimes wayward shooting. France (Riff/Henrard) posted the fastest Laser Run time of 11:41.70, a few seconds quicker than China (Zhang/Li) and Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Ilyashenko).

Pierre de Coubertin #PentathlonDay
In Mexico City (MEX) and around the world, UIPM’s global sporting community came together to celebrate the 1st Pierre de Coubertin #PentathlonDay on September 9.

At the World Championships, a special opening ceremony was held to mark the occasion attended by UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, Members of the Executive Board, officials from the local organising committee and friends of the pentathlon family.

Athletes from all competing nations gathered for the morning ceremony and it was fitting that the celebration of the legacy of Coubertin, founder of Modern Pentathlon, should be held on the day of the Mixed Relay, which UIPM is aiming to add to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games programme.

Around the world, National Federations got involved by organising special celebrations and building promotions into existing competitions. People of all ages had been involved in a successful social media campaign in the build-up to September 9, posting #High5 pictures consisting of raising their hands with outstretched fingers in recognition of the five sports of
Among the VIP guests in Mexico City (MEX) were two members of the Pierre de Coubertin Commission, Dr Lila Victoria Sanchez and Dr Mario Eduardo Martinez who joined Dr Schormann to present Pierre de Coubertin Medals to two of the people responsible for turning the dream of a Pentathlon Stadium into a reality this week in Mexico City.

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

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

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Today we celebrated, for the first time in history, the Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day and we awarded Horacio de la Vega and Juan Manzo with the Pierre de Coubertin Medal. “Then we had a great Mixed Relay competition, and it was a showcase for the world not only inside our society but also for the international Olympic sport society, who can see what the Mixed Relay means to Modern Pentathlon.

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

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

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

Women’s Individual: Prokopenko (BLR) on top of the world at last

Thirteen years after winning her first international gold, Anastasiya Prokopenko of Belarus enjoyed her crowning glory as she became world champion for the first time. She already had a glittering career, but victory in the Women’s Individual Final at the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships had previously eluded Prokopenko (BLR), who has a daughter and a son.

Last year she won her first individual world medal, a bronze, and this time nobody was going to come between her and the top of the podium.

At the start of the Laser Run, there were 11 rivals doing just that. It was no surprise to see her starting 60sec behind the leader, Marie Oteiza of France, and no surprise to see her slicing through the pack with her dynamic running and shooting.

On the third lap, it looked like Annika Schleu of Germany was the one destined to win pentathlon’s most coveted annual prize. She overtook the leading duo, European champion Oteiza (FRA) and 2016 world champion Sarolta Kovacs of Hungary, with such effortless grace that it looked like her world title to lose.

But that is exactly what happened: Schleu (GER) froze at the final visit to the range, taking 26sec to record her five shots, and Prokopenko (BLR) did what she does best and raced into the lead after a 9sec shoot.

Schleu (GER) kept her head to win silver, her finest achievement to date, while Oteiza (FRA) confirmed her exciting potential by confidently hanging on to bronze.

Zsofia Foldhazi and Kovacs finished 4th and 6th respectively for Hungary, while Irina Batalashova of Russia was 5th and Janine Kohlmann (GER) completed an all-European top seven.

To the delight of the home crowd, Mayan Oliver of Mexico finished 8th.

She will turn 33 next week, but now Prokopenko (BLR) looks more than ever like a contender for the biggest prize in the sport when the Olympic Games take place in Tokyo in 2020.

She won her first gold in the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup way back in 2005, and twice she has finished in the top six at the Olympic Games. In 2017 she announced her return to the top with a gold medal at the European Championships and a bronze at the World Championships.

In Mexico City, she had already scaled the top of the podium once, winning Women’s Relay gold on the opening day with Belarus team-mate Iryna Prasiantsova.

After becoming the first person to win an individual world title in a Pentathlon Stadium, Prokopenko (BLR) said: “It’s a good job, because in my heart I believed it but, looking at my starting number, I didn’t believe it. It’s fantastic. My shooting was fantastic and my
running was very, very fast … and I believed it. I believed it. It’s life!
"I didn’t see Annika, I only looked at my target and my shooting, and when I left the range I thought ‘what? I’m first? No!"
"It was my day, and I just ran and ran. It’s my first World Championships gold medal."
Schleu (GER) said: "I was just running and I wasn’t feeling nervous, but then I tried to focus and then somehow I made a few mistakes in the last shoot.
"Actually it’s not because I was thinking about the title, I just made some mistakes and, OK, it became silver. It feels so good to win this medal, I was waiting for this for so many years."
Oteiza (FRA) added: "I was really tired at the end, but I know that I had very big runners behind me and I knew I had to run fast or I would be dead. I did it!"

Swimming
The reigning champion, Gulnaz Gubaydullina (RUS), set the pace in the pool with a time of 2:08.71, just over 1sec faster than 2016 champion Kovacs (HUN). Misaki Uchida of Japan timed 2:11.01.

Fencing
Oteiza (FRA) became European champion this summer and she proved her Fencing ability once again with an outstanding display, resulting in 25V/10D in the Ranking Round and two points in the Bonus Round. Kovacs (HUN) was not far behind with 24V/11D, while Batashova (RUS) also put herself in a strong position. Prokopenko (BLR) also had a good day on the piste, scoring 21V/14D – the same as Schleu (GER) – and adding four bonus points.

Riding
Establishing herself as the athlete to catch, Oteiza (FRA) held her nerve on horseback too as she became one of four women to enjoy a clear round and a maximum score of 300. The others were Zhang Mingyu of China, who recently won gold at the Asian Games in Jakarta (INA), Kate French of Great Britain and Francesca Tognetti of Italy, while Kovacs (HUN) and Schleu (GER) did little to harm their gold-medal prospects with a score of 293.

The title defence of Gubaydullina (RUS) was effectively over as she conceded 64 penalty points, while Alessandra Frezza (ITA) was eliminated and Samantha Achterberg of United States failed to finish. Overall, the standard was very high and everything was set for a grandstand finish in Mexico City’s stunning Pentathlon Stadium.

Laser Run
It looked like it could be a two-horse race, with Oteiza (FRA) and Kovacs (HUN) way out in front, but seasoned observers knew there were Laser Run specialists in the chasing pack waiting to pounce.
Kovacs (HUN) put pressure on the leader during the first two laps, but Schleu (GER) was making serious inroads into her own deficit and after a slick shoot at the third visit to the range, she eased past Oteiza (FRA) to assume the gold-medal position.
It is unlikely that she would have seen Prokopenko (BLR) move with typical urgency up from 12th to 3rd, but Schleu (GER) may have noticed a flash of red behind her back during her struggles on the final shoot. It was the decisive moment of the day, and a classic stealth operation by an experienced three-time Olympian, resulting in a long-awaited and deserved moment of glory.

Unusually, one athlete completed the course even more quickly than Prokopenko (BLR) and that was Anastasiia Vasileva (RUS), who timed 12:05.99.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "Our athletes never give up, no matter how far behind they are. We also had great performances in the Riding today, and the whole competition was a great showcase for our movement and congratulations to all the women on the places they got."

Men’s Individual: Cooke (GBR) denies Prades (FRA) in epic finale
Jamie Cooke (GBR) prevailed in one of the most dramatic Modern Pentathlon races of all time to become the 2018 world champion.
After 200 metres in the pool, more than 35 fencing bouts, a round of show jumping, four laser shooting series and four 800m runs, in a Pentathlon Stadium at 2,200m altitude, the most coveted prize of the year was decided by a photo finish.
Valentin Prades (FRA) had done all the hard work. The European champion had moved with stealth through the pack from 14th place, and on the last lap he muscled his way past Cooke (GBR) and then the leader, Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine. But...
as he rounded the bend to enter the final straight, he made the mistake of raising his arm in celebration. It wasn’t over.

From somewhere, 27-year-old Cooke (GBR) summoned the strength to take one last shot at glory, and he launched into a sprint, catching Prades (FRA) just as they reached the finish line. As they took the tape, Cooke (GBR) clearly touched it first, albeit his victory had to be confirmed by photo. The new world champion wept with elation and amazement as he realised what he had done, and Prades (FRA) raised himself off the floor to congratulate his rival, one warrior to another.

Cooke (GBR) said afterwards: ‘I was really struggling on that last lap, but then I pushed on. My grandad died last week.

‘I’ve worked so hard for this over the last year. I’ve had a fantastic season in training, and I just tried to go as hard as I could.

‘My first shoot was terrible, so I was trying to make amends for that. I’ve been working with a guy called Dave Aldred on my shooting, my coach Mark and Jan [Bartu, GBR performance director] with my team in Bath, and it’s just a dream come true.

‘I saw Valentin go past me and I thought ‘oh no’, but I just dug in and kept going and see what could happen, and I just found in the last 100m that I had something left in my legs.”

Silver medalist Prades (FRA) said: ‘I started 14th after bad Riding, but I said ‘OK, run like a crazy boy like at the Olympics, and we will see’. I started slowly because at altitude, a lot of people are dead after two laps.

‘We had a big training camp at altitude, and I knew I was ready. I knew I could do it and I stayed focused on my run and my shoot, and the last lap was amazing.

‘Not a very good finish because Jamie passed me in the last metre, but I’m so happy because it was a special season for me. I was injured and I didn’t start to run until March, my first competition was very bad, but I am European champion and now silver at the World Championships.

‘It’s amazing, and I am very happy for me and my group and my trainer – we work very hard every day and today is the cherry on the cake.”

The bronze medal added yet another prize to the collection of Tymoshchenko (UKR), world champion in 2015 and Olympic silver medalist at Rio 2016. He said: ‘Valentin went faster than me, and I couldn’t do anything. I almost stopped. The last 100m was very tough, and then Jamie went very fast too. I can’t understand where they got that ability to run.”

Only three men reached the podium but numerous others occupied those top three positions during an extraordinary climax to an unforgettable week of sport in the world’s first all-in-one Pentathlon Stadium.

Amro Elgeziry of USA led the Laser Run but faded at the halfway point. The local hero, Alvaro Sandoval of Mexico, was never far from the front and finished 7th. Ahmed Hamed of Egypt burst into the lead during the third lap and ended up crossing the line in 5th.

Jan Kuf of Czech Republic started 3rd and finished 4th, while 2016 champion Valentin Belaud (FRA) advanced to 6th and Zhang Linbin of China was the top Asian finisher as he completed the top eight.

Team gold went to France, silver to Great Britain and bronze to Ukraine. This came 24 hours after Hungary won gold in the women’s team event, ahead of France (silver) and Germany (bronze).

Swimming
Great Britain made their intentions clear with a typically dominant performance. Myles Pillage (GBR) was quickest in 1:54.95, narrowly ahead of Cooke (GBR) in 1:55.25 and Joe Choong (GBR) in 1:59.83.

Elgeziry (USA) broke up the British party with his 1:56.00 and defending champion Jung Jinhwa of Korea was not far behind on 2:00.71.

Fencing
Two athletes emerged with top marks on the piste, as Zhang (CHN) and Kuf (CZE) each managed 24/11D, and it was Zhang (CHN) who maximised his score in the Bonus Round with the final victory for two extra points.

Alexander Nobis (GER) and Elgeziry (USA) also put themselves in a strong position with 23/12D, as did Sandoval (MEX, 22V/13D) and Tymoshchenko (UKR, 21V/14D). Cooke (GBR) left himself with a fair amount of work to do after scoring 18V/17D.

Riding
There were three perfect scores of 300, but none by the competition leaders. Georgely Regos (HUN), Brice Loubet (FRA) and Gianluca Micozzi of Italy all emerged with an unblemished while Ricardo de Luca (ITA) only dropped one penalty point.

Elgeziry (USA), also struggled and dislodged four obstacles for a score of 272, but such was the carnage that preceded his round, he still went into the Laser Run as the overall leader, 6sec ahead of Sandoval (MEX) and 18sec ahead of Kuf (CZE).

Behind them, a posse of podium seekers prepared to hunt the leaders down.

Laser Run
The unpredictability of Laser Run was beautifully captured in an enthralling race that saw eight athletes occupy medal positions.

Elgeziry (USA) looked strong throughout the first two laps, but then went into freefall. Sandoval (MEX) lost ground at the shooting range where
Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR) is all smiles after receiving her long-awaited bronze medal from the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

But then the tale began to twist. Hamed (EGY) ran strongly to lead a chasing pack into the range for a mass arrival at the third shoot, and the 21-year-old hit his five targets in 9sec and burst into the lead.

At the halfway point of lap three, everything changed again as Tymoshchenko (UKR) overtook Hamed (EGY) and then Cooke (GBR) moved up to 2nd and Prades (FRA) to 3rd. In that moment, the three podium order would they finish?

In 2017, it emerged that Viktoriya Terehchuk of Ukraine, the bronze medallist from Beijing, had tested positive for a banned substance at the 2008 Games. Thanks to advances in retrospective testing, it was confirmed that an anti-doping violation had occurred and Terehchuk (UKR) was disqualified and ordered to return her medal, diploma and pin.

Such incidents have been rare in Modern Pentathlon but across the Olympic sporting movement many results have been adjusted due to a historic transgression, and each time there is a process to be followed in giving the deserving medallist due recognition.

For Anastasiya to receive the Olympic Games bronze medal that she deserves, even after 10 years, sends a clear message to young athletes and we are grateful to the IOC for facilitating this presentation.

Throughout the global UIPM sporting movement we are unequivocal in our promotion of clean sport and our support for clean athletes.
Great Britain top standings as Irish heroes put Laser Run ‘on the map’

Great Britain finished the 4th UIPM Laser Run World Championships in Dublin (IRL) as the best-performing nation with a haul of 27 medals including 10 golds.

Hungary also performed strongly with 18 medals (eight gold), France managed 17 (seven gold) and South Africa, who dominated the 2017 event with home advantage in Cape Town, took home 15 (seven gold).

There were categories for all ages from Under 11 to Masters 60+, and more than 400 athletes came from 28 countries to participate on the green grass of the celebrated Trinity College, right in the heart of the Irish capital.

Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, added: “We had a wonderful festival of Laser Run here in Ireland, the organising committee did a great job and we saw young athletes really enjoying this fantastic field of play at the historic Trinity University.

“I believe that Laser Run is a great tool for development, especially for those countries which have some difficulties with swimming facilities. It’s easy and accessible and kids enjoy it – you can see that in their eyes when they compete and when they receive their medals. That’s what sport is about.”

There was success to savour for the host nation, who won five medals. Paddy Boyd, Pentathlon Ireland CEO, said: “We can say that we have firmly put Laser Run on the map in Ireland and I hope many people will be inspired to take up the sport on the back of what they have seen this weekend.”

Women’s Individual: Varley (GBR) fend off local favourite

Jessica Varley (GBR) fought off competition from local favourite Kate Coleman Lenehan (IRL), who secured silver ahead of bronze medalist Barbora Ciprova of the Czech Republic.

After a tight start Varley (GBR) strode away from Coleman Lenehan (IRL) at the halfway mark and confidently maintained her lead. Ireland had the consolation of winning team gold thanks to Coleman Lenehan, Eilidh Prise and Grace Cuilhane.

Men’s Individual: Kardos (HUN) too good for rest of field

Bence Kardos (HUN) was a runaway winner of Men’s Individual gold on the grass surface of Trinity College, showing his rivals a clean pair of heels. Silver medallist Tom O’Brien (IRL) showed great character to fight off competition from Harry Lane (GBR) and David Kindl (CZE), who eventually won bronze. France claimed the team gold medal.

Mixed Relay: Hungary sign off in style

Bence Kardos teamed up with Blanka Guzi on day two to win Mixed Relay gold for Hungary.

Kardos (HUN), the individual gold medallist, stood out again as he dominated the men’s running leg to make sure nobody else stood a chance.

Ireland (Kate Coleman Lenehan / Tom O’Brien) briefly led after an excellent first shoot by O’Brien, but Kardos (HUN) moved into another gear and the Irish had to accept bronze in the end.

Great Britain had been given a strong platform by individual champion Jessica Varley and she eventually picked up a silver medal alongside Harry Lane.

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Honours even as Russia, Germany and China excel in Budapest (HUN)

The gold medals were split evenly between Russia, Germany and China during an excellent 46th CISM Military Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest (HUN).

CISM Modern Pentathlon President, Lt Col Nilton Rolim, said: “The 46th Military World Championships brought us any exciting moments and it was important that Greece came back to participate in CISM Modern Pentathlon competitions.

“The Honved Sports Club, Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association and the Hungarian Defence Forces provided a fantastic field of play and a perfect atmosphere for our athletes and we had a wonderful time here in Budapest.”

Women’s Individual: Khuraskina (RUS) wins second world title

Ekaterina Khuraskina of Russia maintained her impressive record at the CISM Military World Championships with a gold medal in the Women’s Individual event of the 46th instalment in Budapest (HUN).

Khuraskina (RUS) has stood on the podium every year since 2015, winning silver on two occasions. She won gold in 2016 in Warendorf (GER) and regained her title in Hungary after an intense battle with a number of elite athletes including two former world pentathlon champions.

Sarolta Kovacs (HUN), gold medallist at the 2016 UIPM Pentathlon World Championships, performed well with home advantage and claimed the silver medal.

Dogue (GER) came from behind in the Laser Run to prevail ahead of silver medallist Zhang Linbin of China, and there was a huge roar when local hero Adam Marosi of Hungary came home in 3rd position to win bronze.

There were no individual medals for France but, demonstrating typical strength in depth, they won the team gold thanks to the collective efforts of Valentin Belaud, Christopher Patte and Alexandre Herrnad, with Germany winning silver and Italy bronze.

Gustavei Gustav of Austria led after the Swimming (1:58.10), followed by Matteo Cicinelli of Italy (1:58.44) and defending champion Marosi (HUN, 1:58.73).

Fencing was very tight, with Alexander Nobis (GER) scoring highest (238), three points more than Yuriy Fedechko of Ukraine and six more than Hojoon Song of Korea.

There were six clean rounds in Riding, with Marosi (HUN), Felipe Nascimento of Brazil and Alexander Lifanov of Russia standing out.

Mixed Relay: Wang and Zhang power China to glory

Wang Wei and Zhang Linbin drove China to Mixed Relay gold on the final day and left their military pentathlon rivals with an idea of what to expect next year.

The 7th World Military Games will take place in 2019 in Wuhan (CHN) and the host nation will have a reputation to defend in the pentathlon event after winning two medals at this week’s CISM gathering in Budapest (HUN).

A day after Zhang (CHN) finished second in the Men’s Individual event, he teamed up with Wang (CHN) to defeat a number of more celebrated opponents. Italy (Elena Micheli / Valerio Grasselli) secured silver and XX (XX / XX) claimed bronze.

The USA returned to the military pentathlon scene after a period of
On October 13 and 14, 2018, the new Youth Olympic Games champions in Modern Pentathlon will be crowned during the climax of the individual competitions at Youth Olympic Park in Buenos Aires (ARG).

The best female and male athlete will ascend the podium emulating Leydi Moya of Cuba and Kim Da-Reom of Korea (Singapore 2010), Zhong Xuting of China and Alexander Litavon of Russia (Nanjing 2014).

After that, the competition will open up for two days and the most unique aspect of pentathlon at the Youth Olympic Games will be displayed to the world: the mixed international team event. This is the only global competition where athletes are drawn from different nations and invited to team up, allowing cross-border unions to form in a spirit of solidarity.

In 2010, the winners of mixed international team gold were Anastasia Spas of Ukraine and Ilya Kuznetsov (UKR). It was Marie Teixeira of Portugal and Antonio Kuznetsov who have participated in the Youth Olympic Games emerging as senior athletes. My congratulations go to all 48 athletes who have qualified and I wish them and their support teams the very best of luck.

The Games take place from October 6-18, beginning with the opening ceremony on October 6. See the YOG 2018 Modern Pentathlon schedule below and you can also download the “Youth Olympics 2018” app for more information about the Games.

Modern Pentathlon schedule
All times local; CEST-5

Friday October 12
Women’s Fencing Bonus Round (10pm)
Tuesday October 16
Mixed International Team Fencing Ranking Round (12pm)

Saturday October 13
Women’s Shooting (12pm)
Women’s Fencing Bonus Round (1:30pm)

Sunday October 14
Men’s Shooting (10am)
Men’s Fencing Bonus Round (2:30pm)

Monday October 15
Mixed International Team Fencing Ranking Round (12pm)
Mixed International Laser Run Round (4pm)

Mixed Relay podium in Budapest (HUN)

ATHLETE M/W NOC
CERONIO Santiago Franco M ARG
ARMANAZCU Martina W ESP
VAN VENROOJ Rossan M NED
HABIBUR Reza M MGL
ASTRATCEVA Vladimir M BLR
ESTEVA Katinka W SUI
GUMARES Maria W BGR
FARKASHOVY Alex M HUN
ETOKHIN Zinaida W KAZ
ZHANG Zhonghao M CHN
GIY Yuan M CHN
WRECH Katariina W EST
SERRANO Franco W ESP
ABDULMUKHADJ Samsa W MGL
HEREDA Laura W ESP
FARRAR Hugo M VEN
RIT Emma W FRA
PRICE Toby M GBR
DENTON Maxwel M GBR
HAYNADEC George M GBR
URIEL Pete M GBR
FERNANDEZ GONZA Leticia M ESP
ASPLUND Anna W SWE
BOHR Claudia M DEU
GUTIAR Murillo M MGL
MALAN Giorgio M ITA
EISENDO出色 W HUN
SHIKHEVAR Manso W RUS
IBRAHIMOV Adil M RUS
FREDERIKSEN Mette W DEN
HUSENOV Aydar W RUS
TVER-condur Krzysztof M POL
KAZAKXAN Amares M LTU
AGRAITE Elodie W FRA
VASILKOVA Alex M MKD
FLORES Sergio M MEX
AROILLIS Artemio M SVN
KASPERCZEK Ildar M POL
OLIVERA Guadalupe M MEX
PODLER Remy M FRA
VAN DAE MOIES Wolter M NED
GROZINSKY Gregor M RUS
NOVOZROVA Zorina M RUS
ZURC Anna W SVK
CHEN Xu Xuanan M CHN
NUSTRATDUL Diaa M TUN
ZEIDOV Yulian M UKR
HERRANZANG Angel M MEX

Youth Olympic Games:
All you need to know about the pentathlon competition in Buenos Aires (ARG)

absence and were rewarded with 4th place in the Mixed Relay thanks to Samantha Achterberg and Amro Elgeziry.

Italy (Micheli / Grasselli) and China (Wang / Zhang) began to emerge as contenders for gold on the Fencing piste, an altercation that was won narrowly by the Italians.

One of the perennial contenders for gold at this competition is France, but today the defending champions Eloïde Clouvel and Valentin Belaud suffered elimination during Riding.

The Laser Run was highly eventful, with the podium positions changing hands repeatedly, but eventually Zhang (CHN) summoned the stamina to move clear in the last 80m.

Italy (Micheli / Grasselli) were the most consistent team and won the Challenge Cup for best results across all disciplines. A Fair Play prize was awarded to Matteo Cicinelli (ITA).

Zhang Linbin (CHN) moves clear after taking a handover from his team-mate Wang Wei (CHN)
Global Laser Run City Tour 2018

Active lifestyle promoted in Singapore (SIN)

The Singapore Modern Pentathlon Association (SIMPA) teamed up with local authority, ActiveSG, to promote the benefits of UIPM Sports as a lifestyle choice during the Global Laser Run City Tour in Singapore on August 5, 2018.

Singapore's second City Tour was held in conjunction with a month-long calendar of activities to celebrate the 53rd National Day of Singapore.

Prior to the event, three Laser Run workshops had been conducted to allow participants to practise their laser shooting skills. Participants aged from seven to 67 were attracted from local schools and communities as well as Thailand and Malaysia.

The local organising committee reported that the City Tour was well received by the general public, with a lot of walk-up interest on the day from people keen to try laser shooting and expressing their interest in participating in future Laser Run and Modern Pentathlon events.

SIMPA Vice President Cassandra Choh said: “UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour will be our annual event. Laser Run is the most accessible format to learn about the sport of Modern Pentathlon.” Laser Run was introduced in Singapore in 2016 and is in sync with ActiveSG’s ideology in bringing enjoyment and health to local communities through active participation in sports.

Rural communities get involved in Bandaragama (SRI)

Brightly-coloured clothing, a wide range of participants and clear progression were all in evidence as Sri Lanka staged its latest Global Laser Run City Tour in Bandaragama on August 19. This was Sri Lanka’s first City Tour held outside of the capital Colombo, and the aim was to enable members of the public from rural communities to have the same opportunity to participate in UIPM Sports as their urban neighbours.

There was an elite race as well as Under 19, Under 15, Under 13 and Under 11 categories. The Sri Lankan Forces were represented alongside Modern Pentathlon clubs, as well as a number of universities.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “The idea was to help the school kids and youth in the region to gain experience by using their training in a competition environment.”

“Some participants were representing Sri Lankan Universities and it was heartening to see that there were commendable performances from them too. Their participation made the event more colourful and generated much interest among the viewing public.

“We were able to see that the introduction of new coaches, with the help of UIPM and the Ministry of Sports, has paid dividends almost immediately with the performance levels of athletes increasing compared to the previous editions of the event.

“The event was able to attract new sponsors and MPFSL is very thankful to Opal Clothing for coming forward to help make the event more colourful.”

The event also included a segment by clothing industry experts and universities, who provided participants with knowledge about sportswear through a “Know How Expert” programme.

Almost 200 athletes flocked to the Bandaragama Public Ground and there was a mixture of participants who had already competed in Laser Run in Colombo and others from nearby communities who had attended training camps run by the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Sri Lanka (MPFSL) in the two months before the event.

New sport meets Old Town in Riga (LAT)

In the Old Town of Riga, a new sporting phenomenon established itself on September 1 as athletes of all ages raced each other through urban parks and historic squares.

The UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour has found another new host in the capital of Latvia, where more than 100 participants from various regions of the country had a first try of Laser Run.

The competition took place within the framework of the popular Riga Sports Night, an initiative organized by the Riga Municipality in cooperation with sponsors. A number of Latvian sports federations
participated and the Latvia Modern Pentathlon Federation was represented alongside sports federations such as athletics and triathlon.

An organising committee spokesperson said: “The UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour is a great opportunity to promote Modern Pentathlon sports and a great opportunity to make opportunities visible for everyone. We were glad to see that children, adults, the families and Masters athletes participated in the event. We look forward to organising UIPM Laser Run events in future.”

Culture meets sport in Novosibirsk (RUS) on Pentathlon Day

Russia hosted one of the biggest Laser Run gatherings to date when 460 athletes flocked to Novosibirsk for the Global Laser Run City Tour on September 8.

The occasion formed part of the global celebration of the 1st Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day, and large groups of participants aged from seven to 73 came from Novosibirsk, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, Barnaul, and neighbouring Kazakhstan to take part in Lenin Square.

An advertising campaign promoting the GLRCT was visible on billboards, light screens and several news releases on local TV, and invitations to participate were released on websites and social media. As a part of the City Tour, competitions were held for military clubs, institutes of the city of Novosibirsk and other organizations.

The festive atmosphere was supported by five artistic groups that performed 20 concert acts. VIP guests included the governor of the Novosibirsk region, Andrey Travnikov, the City Mayor, Anatoly Lokot, and the head of the Physical Training and Sports department, Sergey Ahapov. They all sampled laser shooting.

Television accounts of the day’s events have since been shown on all the main channels in Novosibirsk, along with a promotional video on YouTube.

A spokesperson for the local organizing committee said: “We are grateful to the sports, educational and labour collectives who were involved in organizing the event. The competitions aroused huge interest among the residents of Novosibirsk. Many of them became participants thanks to the work carried out by the Novosibirsk Federation of Pentathlon.

“Thanks to the expertly chosen place and time of the event, 12,000 people watched the UIPM Global Laser-Run City Tour in Novosibirsk and at the same time was held our event, the Annual Siberian Running Festival. There is an idea, supported by the regional government of Novosibirsk, to hold competitions with a prize fund and invite high-level athletes for next year.”

A happy #High5 from Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day from participants in Novosibirsk (RUS)

Culture meets sport in Novosibirsk (RUS) on Pentathlon Day

Another Global Laser Run City Tour in Ukraine, another day of adverse weather conditions, another example of hundreds of racers refusing to be denied their chance to try UIPM’s fastest-growing development sport.

A storm warning was issued by the local meteorological office on September 9, the day of the event in Dnipro, and for the third time this year in Ukraine, the weather could hardly have been worse for a Global Laser Run City Tour.

On the flip side, the spirit on display could hardly have been higher. Festival Quay provided an attractive venue for the competition and 261 competitors attended, many of them with experience of pentathlon.

The Vice President of the Ukrainian Modern Pentathlon Federation, Sergey Timarev, made a welcome speech in which he thanked everybody for braving the weather on such a special occasion. This was one of two City Tours that coincided with the 1st Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day.

There were numerous races on the day with youth, senior and Masters categories, as well as an elite race for the experienced pentathletes. Sergey Timarev said: “Because of the support of the UIPM and Alexandr Petrovsky’s Solidarnist welfare fund, we have been able to celebrate the first #PentathlonDay like real pentathletes – just like the elite athletes competing at the World Championships in Mexico City.”

A happy #High5 on Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day from participants in Novosibirsk (RUS)
News from around the world

Asian Games 2018: Golden glory for Zhang (CHN) and Jun (KOR)

Korea and China shared all six medals at the 2018 Asian Games Modern Pentathlon competition in Jakarta, Indonesia, winning one title each. Zhang Mingyu (CHN) and Jun Woongtae (KOR) claimed the golden glory while three other Koreans and one Chinese athlete joined them on the podium at the multi-sport Games after fighting off the challenge of rival nations such as Japan and Kazakhstan.

Jun (KOR) lived up to his billing as world No.1 to take the Men’s Individual title by a 13sec margin over Lee Jihun (KOR), with Luo Shuai (CHN) securing bronze after a tight contest with Li Shuhuan (CHN).

Zhang (CHN) held off a strong Korean challenge in the Women’s Individual Final led by silver medallist Kim Sehee (KOR) and bronze medallist Kim Sunwoo (KOR), the champion securing gold by 25sec. Japan’s Rena Shimazu and Natsumi Tonomaga were fourth and fifth respectively.

African coaches benefit from IOC Solidarity Fund in Dakar (SEN)

For the second time this year, a group of aspiring coaches has gained a qualification in UIPM Sports thanks to the support of the IOC Olympic Solidarity fund.

Eighteen coaches attended the UIPM Level 1 coaching seminar in Dakar, Senegal, from September 3-7 and received tuition in Biathle and Triathle practice, competition organisation and pentathlete recruitment.

The group was composed of 15 Senegalese and three Gambian coaches and the opening ceremony was attended by Seydina Omar Diagne, Secretary General of the Senegalese Olympic Committee, and the President and Technical Director of the National Committee of Modern Pentathlon Promotion (CNPPM), Gnagna Sy and Tandakha Ndiaye.

On the day the course concluded, the IOC confirmed that Senegal had been recommended by its Executive Board as host of the 2022 Summer Youth Olympic Games, so there is sure to be extra impetus for Modern Pentathlon development in the country over the next four years.

A spokesperson for CNPPM said: “Everyone wanted to develop and share their knowledge about pentathlon in their country. They would like to start organizing competitions at national and international level.

You can visit the UIPM educational platform at pentathlon.org to find a range of resources for athletes, coaches and judges.

Laser Run lights up Urban Games in Budapest (HUN)

Laser Run made a successful debut at the Budapest Urban Games as the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association progressed its preparations for the 2019 Laser Run World Championships.

A competition was held with one professional and three open categories, and almost 100 participants took the opportunity to sample UIPM’s fastest-growing development sport in the historic surroundings of the Citadella. The iconic building sits at the top of Gellért Hill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The HMPA is working on a promotional campaign to draw attention of Budapest’s people to the Pentathlon Festival in 2019, which will consist of the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships and Laser Run World Championships running alongside each other.

The Budapest Urban Games featured individual and Mixed Relay Laser Run races as well as running, swimming, ‘streetball’ and ‘grundfoci’ (3x3 football).

Mali breaks new ground with Laser Run competition in Bamako

The African nation of Mali has given its people their first exposure to UIPM Sports with a Laser Run competition held in the capital city of Bamako.

The Malian Federation of Modern Pentathlon organised the Category B event in the grounds of Ibrahim Ly High School in the neighbourhood of Banankabougou. A total of 250 young athletes from Mali took part, their country. They would like to start organizing competitions at national and international level.

You can visit the UIPM educational platform at pentathlon.org to find a range of resources for athletes, coaches and judges.

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Russia (Gubaydullina/Lesun) took the lead with a Swimming time of 1:56.22 for a score of 318, five more than Hungary (Kovacs/Demeter). France (Elodie Clouvel / Valentin Belaud) incurred a 10-point penalty that ended their medal hopes and pushed them back to 8th. Belarus (Prokopenko/Palazkov) ran wonderfully well in the Laser Run but the excellent shooting of Gubaydullina (RUS) kept the hosts in the lead with a narrow advantage. When Lesun (RUS) took over from his partner they enjoyed a 16sec lead, but an excellent Laser Run by Palazkov (BLR) decided the final outcome.

A breathtaking finish saw Palazkov (BLR) celebrate crossing the line with the Kremlin Cup in Moscow (RUS) to secure victory by 14sec.

The Kremlin Cup is a single-day Mixed Relay event and there were 11 nations in attendance this year, with Hungary, France, Germany, Lithuania, Korea, Egypt, Italy, Poland and Kazakhstan lining up against Belarus and the host nation Russia.

A fantastic season for Belarus continued with victory in the 2018 Kremlin Cup for Anastasia Prokopenko and Ilya Palazkov in Moscow, Russia on September 23.

Prokopenko, the new women's individual world champion and world No.1, and Palazkov (world No.5) entered the competition as the top-ranked athletes but they only prevailed after a dramatic race.

The competition took place on September 8 and there was a celebration in recognition of the 1st Pierre De Coubertin #PentathlonDay on September 9.

Prokopenko and Palazkov (BLR) win Kremlin Cup in Moscow (RUS)

The 2018 Kremlin Cup podium

The home team achieved a perfect score of 300 points after a clear round in the Riding arena and this enabled them to extend their overall lead to 21sec ahead of the Laser Run.

The competition took place on September 23.

The Russian team, consisting of 2016 Olympic champion Alexander Lesun and 2017 world champion Guizat Gubaydullina, picked up 2nd place and Lithuania (Gintare Vencikauke / Justinas Kinderis) finished 3rd.

In a quality field packed with international class, France (Elodie Clouvel / Valentin Belaud) missed out on the podium in 4th place, finishing just ahead of 5th-placed Belaud) missed out on the podium in 4th class, France (Elodie Clouvel / Valentin Belaud) incurred a 10-point penalty that ended their medal hopes and pushed them back to 8th. Belarus (Prokopenko/Palazkov) topped the standings in Fencing after Prokopenko scored a superb 19/10 for a total of 252 points, enabling them to move within seven points of the overall leaders Russia (Gubaydullina/Lesun). The home team achieved a perfect score of 302 points after a clear round in the Riding arena and this enabled them to extend their overall lead to 21sec ahead of the Laser Run.

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Inside UIPM: Monthly activities of President Dr Schormann

06.-14.09.2018, Mexico City, MEX

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met during the 58th UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City (MEX) with national sport leaders of Mexico. At a press conference in City Hall he stated that Mexico is an important pillar for the international Modern Pentathlon movement. World Cups, World Championships, UIPM Congress and the Olympic Games in 1968 are all part of the heritage of UIPM.

A new milestone has now been created with the Pentathlon World Championships arranged with all five disciplines taking place in the world’s first Pentathlon Stadium. This provided ideal preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Summer Games, where Modern Pentathlon will take place in the Tokyo Stadium with 50,000 spectators.

On September 9, the UIPM President met together with UIPM Vice-President Juan Manzo Oranegui (also President of the Mexican Modern Pentathlon Federation), South American Modern Pentathlon Confederation President Jorge Salas (also President of the Argentina Modern Pentathlon Federation) and the President of the Confederacion Deportiva Mexicana, Dr Jose Amado Aguilar Arguelles. They discussed the importance of sport as a pillar for education, integration and healthy lifestyle. They agreed on future close cooperation to underline the benefit of the Sport for All movement and high-performance athletes.

On September 11 the UIPM Innovation Commission met in the headquarters of the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO), where former UIPM 1st Vice-President Ivar Sisniega is working as Secretary General of the organisation.

UIPM President Schormann and Commission Chair Mr Sisniega were joined by UIPM Vice-President Joel Bouzou, Secretary General Shiny Fang, Executive Board Members for Marketing and Development Martin Dawe and Dr Vacheslav Malishev, and President’s Assistant Pagona Sonndag.

The Members of the Commission discussed ideas relating to the present and future presentation of Modern Pentathlon across all age groups and linked to the Youth Olympic Games and the Olympic Games.

On September 12 the UIPM President met with Mexican Olympic Committee Vice-President Jimena Saldana during the Women’s Individual Final to brief each other about various International Federation and National Olympic Committee activities.

Mrs Saldana highlighted the 50-year anniversary of the 1968 Olympic Summer Games in Mexico City, which has a great meaning for the Olympic movement of Mexico.
During her visit to the World Championships Mrs Saldana joined many compatriots from the Mexican sporting movement including Horacio de la Vega, two-time Olympic pentathlete, President of the Local Organising Committee and Sports Director for the Mexico City Mayor’s office.

A number of other Mexican Olympic athletes also attended the competition, which attracted extensive media coverage in Mexico as well as worldwide.

There was also a special encounter between Dr Schormann, Juan Manzo and the oldest surviving pentathlete from Mexico, Tte Coronel José Perez Mier, 91 years old and still a fan of his sport.

The final engagement of the President’s visit to Mexico City was a farewell group dinner for the UIPM delegates, staff and colleagues from the Local Organising Committee.

21.-23.09.2018, Bratislava, SVK

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann took part in a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Slovak Olympic Committee (SOC), where he met with more than 15 European Olympic Committee Presidents and representatives of the European Olympic Society and Governments.

UIPM President Dr Schormann, Horacio de la Vega (centre) and Dr Viacheslav Malishev (2nd right) enjoy an encounter with Mexican Olympians.

With the President of the European Olympic Committees, Janez Kocijancic he discussed various issues relating to the European and global Olympic movement.

In his discussion with SOC President Anton Siekel, President Dr Schormann underlined the long history of Modern Pentathlon through the former Czechoslovakia and nowadays through Slovakia.

Dr Vladimír Miller, former Vice President of the SOC and President of Modern Pentathlon in Slovakia and Member of the UIPM Technical Committee, joined the UIPM President in all meetings.

On September 28 the UIPM President and Dr Miller visited the new X-Bionic Sphere sporting complex which can host many indoor sports, swimming, all disciplines in horse riding, track & field, tennis and more. The Olympic canoeing bronze medallist and complex director, Juraj Baca, gave a tour and special presentation.

28.-30.09.2018, Dublin, IRL

President Schormann attended a reception at Mansion House, the official residence of the Lord Mayor Dublin, Nial Ring, at which the Mayor officially welcome the international UIPM Sports community to the Republic of Ireland.

The reception was also attended by Irish pentathletes Natalya Coyle and Arthur Lanigan-O’Keeffe as well as Pentathlon Ireland chairman John Foley, CEO Paddy Boyd and other members of the Irish sporting community.

Dr Schormann had a discussion with Mr Foley about the future development of pentathlon in Ireland and gave a speech in which he talked about the importance of Laser Run as a development sport and the potential of the 2019 Urban Games - which will feature Laser Run - to assist with its growth in global popularity.

On September 28 the UIPM President
also visited the new National Sports Campus in Dublin and met with the CEO of Sport Ireland, John Treacy, Olympic silver medallist in the marathon in Los Angeles in 1984. They visited the pentathlon training centre and talked about the possibilities of training courses and competitions in the new facility.

The UIPM 2018 Laser Run World Championships took place in the grounds of Ireland’s most prestigious and historic university, Trinity College Dublin, and Dr Schormann officially opened the championships during a flag ceremony for the 28 competing nations on the evening of September 28.

During the championships on September 29 and 30, Dr Schormann was joined by Dr Vacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development in meetings with delegations discussing development issues.

They presented two members of the UIPM Technical Committee, Dongkook Chung and Bernhard Petruschinski, with diplomas relating to their election to the Technical Committee during the 2016 UIPM Congress in Frankfurt-am-Main (GER).

Mr Chung and Mr Petruschinski were the technical delegates in charge of the Laser Run World Championships.

The Full New Balance World Ranking is available on 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.”