

UPDATE



Newsletter of the European Athletic Association

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Athletics nowadays must be presented in another way

Modern ideas for a complex sport

Athletics as a complex sport must find new ways to attract not just the insiders but also a wider audience. The European Indoor Championships provided a lot of experiences and mainly positive reactions. Nevertheless the sport itself must remain at the heart of everything.

Hansjörg Wirz

The European Indoor Championships in Vienna were a big success, and we have to thank the federations which nominated strong teams, the Organising Committee together with the city of Vienna and to all collaborators who worked hard for a great event. The infrastructure and the crowd in a sold out arena were extraordinary. We got a lot of positive comments and reactions after Vienna, from both within the athletics family as well as from the media. These championships proved again that it is very important how our sport is presented. We gained a lot of experience and additional know-how, which shall influence the forthcoming EAA events and bring them to a more modern presentation. But we have to take care that the sport itself remains the central element at the event. We need an adaption and an update of our thinking about how a competition has to be presented. Society has changed and

spectators will not just be looking at what is happening but they will also be involved in the activities. For their integration several different elements have to be used, and among them music can be a very suitable form.

Because athletics is so complex and a non-experienced spectator has to search for where the most interesting things are going on in the stadium, the presentation has a higher importance than in other sports. If we would like to touch a wider circle of athletics fans and spectators, which we must, then we cannot just serve those who expect a traditional form of an event. So lets move together forward, lets move into the future, but again, lets not forget: the most important element of an event must be the athlete. ■

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Hansjörg Wirz is President of the European Athletic Association



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Rankings of all eight teams competing in the SPAR European Cup 2002

Past Rankings Participants SPAR European Cup - Women									
Year	GER FRG	GDR	RUS URS	UKR	GBR	ITA	ROM	FRA	POL
1965	4 th Fi	2 nd Fi	1 st Fi		3 rd SF	5 th SF	3 rd SF	4 th SF	3 rd Fi
1967	3 rd Fi	2 nd Fi	1 st Fi		5 th Fi	5 th SF	4 th SF	4 th SF	4 th Fi
1970	2 nd Fi	1 st Fi	3 rd Fi		5 th Fi	4 th SF	3 rd SF	4 th SF	4 th Fi
1973	4 th Fi	1 st Fi	2 nd Fi		5 th Fi	4 th SF	6 th Fi	3 rd SF	3 rd SF
1975	3 rd Fi	1 st Fi	2 nd Fi		7 th Fi	5 th SF	5 th Fi	8 th Fi	4 th Fi
1977	3 rd Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		4 th Fi A	2 nd Fi B	6 th Fi A	3 rd Fi B	5 th Fi A
1979	6 th Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		4 th Fi A	8 th Fi A	5 th Fi A	3 rd Fi B	7 th Fi A
1981	3 rd Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		4 th Fi A	3 rd Fi B	4 th Fi B	5 th SF	6 th Fi A
1983	6 th Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		4 th Fi A	1 st Fi B	2 nd Fi B	3 rd Fi B	7 th Fi A
1985	7 th Fi A	2 nd Fi A	1 st Fi A		3 rd Fi A	8 th Fi A	2 nd Fi B	1 st Fi B	6 th Fi A
1987	4 th Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		5 th Fi A	3 rd Fi B	1 st Fi B	8 th Fi A	7 th Fi A
1989	4 th Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		3 rd Fi A	4 th Fi B	5 th Fi A	1 st Fi B	6 th Fi A
1991	1 st Fi A		2 nd Fi A		3 rd Fi A	1 st Fi B	4 th Fi A	5 th Fi A	6 th Fi A
1993	4 th SL		1 st SL	3 rd SL	5 th SL	8 th SL	2 nd SL	6 th SL	7 th SL
1994	1 st SL		2 nd SL	4 th SL	3 rd SL	2 nd 1L	7 th SL	6 th SL	1 st 1L
1995	2 nd SL		1 st SL	5 th SL	3 rd SL	7 th SL	2 nd 1L Gr. 2	4 th SL	8 th SL
1996	1 st SPAR EC		2 nd SPAR EC	4 th SPAR EC	6 th SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. 1	1 st 1L Gr. 2	5 th SPAR EC	3 rd 1L Gr. 2
1997	2 nd SPAR EC		1 st SPAR EC	6 th SPAR EC	3 rd SPAR EC	4 th SPAR EC	7 th SPAR EC	5 th SPAR EC	2 nd 1L Gr. A
1998	2 nd SPAR EC		1 st SPAR EC	7 th SPAR EC	5 th SPAR EC	6 th SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. A	3 rd SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. B
1999	4 th SPAR EC		1 st SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. A	6 th SPAR EC	5 th SPAR EC	2 nd SPAR EC	3 rd SPAR EC	7 th SPAR EC
2000	2 nd SPAR EC		1 st SPAR EC	7 th SPAR EC	6 th SPAR EC	5 th SPAR EC	4 th SPAR EC	3 rd SPAR EC	3 rd 1L Gr. B
2001	2 nd SPAR EC		1 st SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. B	4 th SPAR EC	6 th SPAR EC	5 th SPAR EC	3 rd SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. A

Past Rankings Participants SPAR European Cup - Men									
Year	GER FRG	GDR	RUS URS	UKR	GBR	FIN	POL	FRA	ITA
1965	2 nd Fi	4 th Fi	1 st Fi		6 th Fi	4 th SF	3 rd Fi	5 th Fi	4 th SF
1967	3 rd Fi	2 nd Fi	1 st Fi		3 rd SF	6 th SF	4 th Fi	5 th Fi	4 th SF
1970	3 rd Fi	1 st Fi	2 nd Fi		3 rd SF	3 rd SF	4 th Fi	5 th Fi	7 th Fi
1973	3 rd Fi	2 nd Fi	1 st Fi		4 th Fi	5 th Fi	3 rd SF	6 th Fi	3 rd SF
1975	5 th Fi	1 st Fi	2 nd Fi		4 th Fi	6 th Fi	3 rd Fi	7 th Fi	8 th Fi
1977	2 nd Fi A	1 st Fi A	3 rd Fi A		4 th Fi A	7 th Fi A	5 th Fi A	6 th Fi A	8 th Fi A
1979	3 rd Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		5 th Fi A	5 th Fi B	4 th Fi A	7 th Fi A	6 th Fi A
1981	4 th Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		3 rd Fi A	4 th Fi B	6 th Fi A	7 th Fi A	5 th Fi A
1983	3 rd Fi A	1 st Fi A	2 nd Fi A		4 th Fi A	3 rd Fi B	5 th Fi A	7 th Fi A	6 th Fi A
1985	3 rd Fi A	1 st Fi A	1 st Fi A		4 th Fi A	4 th Fi B	5 th Fi A	8 th Fi A	6 th Fi A
1987	4 th Fi A	2 nd Fi A	1 st Fi A		3 rd Fi A	7 th Fi B	8 th Fi A	1 st Fi B	5 th Fi A
1989	6 th Fi A	2 nd Fi A	3 rd Fi A		1 st Fi A	1 st Fi C Gr. 1	3 rd Fi B	5 th Fi A	4 th Fi A
1991	3 rd Fi A		1 st Fi A		2 nd Fi A	6 th Fi B	2 nd Fi B	5 th Fi A	4 th Fi A
1993	4 th SL		1 st SL	6 th SL	2 nd SL	6 th 1L	8 th SL	3 rd SL	5 th SL
1994	1 st SL		3 rd SL	4 th SL	2 nd SL	1 st 2L Gr. 3	2 nd 1L	7 th SL	5 th SL
1995	1 st SL		3 rd SL	5 th SL	2 nd SL	1 st 1L Gr. 2	8 th SL	1 st 1L Gr. 1	4 th SL
1996	1 st SPAR EC		5 th SPAR EC	7 th SPAR EC	2 nd SPAR EC	9 th SPAR EC	2 nd 1L Gr. 2	6 th SPAR EC	3 rd SPAR EC
1997	2 nd SPAR EC		3 rd SPAR EC	5 th 1L Gr. A	1 st SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. B	2 nd 1L Gr. A	6 th SPAR EC	4 th SPAR EC
1998	2 nd SPAR EC		3 rd SPAR EC	3 rd 1L Gr. A	1 st SPAR EC	8 th SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. B	5 th SPAR EC	4 th SPAR EC
1999	1 st SPAR EC		4 th SPAR EC	2 nd 1L Gr. A	3 rd SPAR EC	4 th 1L Gr. A	7 th SPAR EC	5 th SPAR EC	2 nd SPAR EC
2000	2 nd SPAR EC		5 th SPAR EC	2 nd 1L Gr. B	1 st SPAR EC	2 nd 1L Gr. A	1 st 1L Gr. B	3 rd SPAR EC	4 th SPAR EC
2001	4 th SPAR EC		2 nd SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. B	5 th SPAR EC	1 st 1L Gr. A	1 st SPAR EC	6 th SPAR EC	3 rd SPAR EC

SF = Semifinal
Fi = Final
Fi A = Final A
Fi B = Final B
SL = Super League
1L = First League

Gr. 1 = Group 1
Gr. 2 = Group 2
Gr. A = Group A
Gr. B = Group B
2L = Second League
SPAR EC = SPAR European Cup



24th SPAR European Cup

A unique system reflecting full stadium athletics

For the 24th time European athletes will meet on the weekend of 22/23 June for the only national teams event on our continent. With almost 2000 athletes involved at five different locations the SPAR European Cup and its lower leagues are together an even bigger competition than the European Championships.

Nicolas Russi

In seasons where there are no championships, the European Cup is the only event where the full programme of stadium athletics is held, and where every country has its top athletes together in one place for no less than 20 events. This is especially so in the First and Second Leagues where the performance level within the teams is less equal and for some of the athletes it is the only opportunity to compete in an international competition. Furthermore, the European Cup can remind officials not to forget some of the events - prior to the European Cup they actually realise that they also need a shot putter and a triple jumper.

In a time when society and the surroundings of the sport are forever changing, the European Cup remains as an almost unmoveable rock. The programme has been adapted several times, removing the 10,000m and decreasing the number of the attempts in the field events both to reduce the total time of the event and raise the attractiveness for the crowd as well as for television. And, like the European Championships, it provides the opportunity to show that on our continent there are high class sprinters and steeplechase specialists too.

From a sporting point of view the European Cup has kept a value which is generally disappearing more and more: Athletics as a team sport, fighting not just for a result but additionally for points. This is one of the very few occasions per season

when running events are more than following a pacemaker and tactical skills are required. So the winner's times didn't appear high on the season list but there were other aspects which qualify the victory as extraordinary.

The criticism that stars are often missing from the SPAR European Cup is only a half-truth. Last year, after Bremen, nine of the female winners' performances remained in the top ten until the end of the season, two of them even right at the top. The fact that several national federations use this event as a qualification competition for the season's highlight and accept lower performances if they are achieved with a victory, a European Cup result reflects more the abilities required for a championship than a qualification mark achieved in one of several attempts at normal meetings.

So this year the European Cup is an early, but nevertheless important, step towards Munich. But it is also the key event for two other team competitions. The two best-ranked teams will qualify for the World Cup in Madrid (ESP) and the top six will qualify for the new European Indoor Cup which will be held for the first time on 15th February 2003 in Leipzig (GER).

The European Cups 2002

SPAR European Cup (Annecy / FRA, 22/23 June)

Men	Women
Finland (+)	France
France	Germany
Germany	Great Britain & NI
Great Britain & NI	Italy
Italy	Poland (+)
Poland	Romania
Russia	Russia
Ukraine (+)	Ukraine (+)

First League Group A (Banska Bystrica / SVK, 22/23 June)

Men	Women
Belgium (+)	Bulgaria
Czech Republic	Czech Republic (-)
Greece (-)	Finland
Hungary	Greece
Lithuania (+)	Hungary
Norway	Norway (+)
Romania	Slovakia (+)
Slovakia	Turkey

First League Group B (Seville / ESP, 22/23 June)

Men	Women
Austria (+)	Belarus (-)
Denmark (+)	Latvia (+)
Netherlands	Netherlands
Portugal	Portugal
Slovenia	Slovenia
Spain (-)	Spain
Sweden	Sweden
Switzerland	Switzerland (+)

Second League Group A (Tallinn / EST, 22/23 June)

Men	Women
Belarus (-)	Cyprus
Cyprus	Denmark
Estonia	Estonia
Georgia	Georgia
Iceland	Iceland
Ireland (-)	Ireland
Latvia	Lithuania (-)
Luxembourg	Luxembourg

Second League Group B (Belgrade / YUG, 22/23 June)

Men	Women
AASSE*	AASSE*
Albania	Albania
Armenia	Armenia
Bosn. Herzegovina	Austria (-)
Bulgaria (-)	Belgium (-)
Croatia	Bos. Herzegovina
Israel	Croatia
Macedonia	Israel
Moldova	Macedonia
Turkey	Moldova
Yugoslavia (-)	Yugoslavia (-)

+ promoted / - relegated

AASSE* =Athletic Association of the
Small States of Europe

European Cup Combined Events 2001

Super League (Bydgoszcz / POL, 29/30 June)

Men	Women
Austria (+)	Belarus
Finland	Czech Republic
France	Germany
Germany	Great Britain & NI (+)
Hungary	Italy
Netherlands (+)	Poland
Russia	Russia
Ukraine	Ukraine (+)

First League (Riga / LAT, 29/30 June)

Men	Women
Belarus (+)	Belgium (+)
Czech Republic	Estonia (+)
Greece (-)	Finland (-)
Italy	France (-)
Latvia	Greece
Poland (+)	Netherlands
Spain	Sweden
Switzerland (-)	Switzerland

Second League (Maribor / SLO, 29/30 June)

Men	Women
Denmark	Austria
Estonia (-)	Belgium
Great Britain & NI	Denmark
Lithuania	Hungary (-)
Norway	Israel
Portugal	Latvia
Slovenia	Lithuania (-)
Sweden (-)	Romania
	Slovenia
	Spain

Individuals	Individuals
Belgium	Albania
Cyprus	Georgia
Georgia	Iceland
Iceland	Norway
Israel	Portugal
Moldova	Slovakia
Romania	Turkey
Slovakia	Yugoslavia
Turkey	
Yugoslavia	



Last year in Bremen
Poland won the SPAR
European Cup for the
first time.



1st European Mountain Running Championships in Camara de Lobos

Inaugural edition on an up and down course

A new athletic experience is about to burst upon the consciousness of members of the EAA in the form of a mountain running championship. The inaugural event will take place in Madeira (Portugal) on July 8th, over the hills inland from Camera de Lobos.

Danny Hughes

Following the practice set up by the World Mountain Running Association of having up & down courses one year and uphill only courses the next, in order to accommodate different traditions, the courses this year are up & down, but unusual in that they start and finish in different places.

The men will race over a distance of 13.2km during which they will ascend 708m and descend 550m. The womens course is 8.4km long with an ascent of 532m and a rather greater descent of 752m.

With European champion titles at stake, endurance athletes from other traditions may try their luck in what for them is a new discipline, but it is doubtful if they will be able to match the skills of the mountain running specialists unless they embark on a specialised training regime.

If one were to identify favourites for the first titles the mens race is certain to be dominated by the Italians with team mates Marco de Gasperi and Emmanuelle Manzi (Forestdale) vying for first place. Marginal favourite has to be De Gasperi with no less than 4 world trophy victories to his credit, all in the up/down discipline. However the 2001 world trophy race saw Manzi get within a few seconds of the victorious De Gasperi.

The womens race appears to be more open with several women who could be mentioned as potential champions. The 2001 world trophy runner up, Anna Pichrtova (CZE) must be reckoned among the top favourites, but the winner of last years European Trophy, Svetlana Demidenko (RUS) will be in contention, as will the evergreen Izabela Zatorska (POL) and Angela Mudge (GBR). Poland and Austria will be strong challengers to Italy for womens team honours.



Traditional athletic organisations are usually very conservative in their thinking about what athletics consists of, so it is no surprise that many doubts surround this new initiative of welcoming into the European athletic family the branch of athletics known as 'Mountain Running'. What can be said in its favour is that it always takes place in beautiful, natural locations, is relatively inexpensive to practice requiring no stadiums, and is free of the organisational difficulties associated with road races. The EAA Council and the Congress are to be congratulated on their initiative in recognising that in Europe there are literally many thousands of endurance athletes enjoying the thrill of running over hills and mountains who now, deservedly, will have their own recognised champions within the athletic family. ■

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Danny Hughes GBR is President of the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA) and Technical Delegate of the 1st European Mountain Running Championships.

Farewell to Honorary Life President Sir Arthur Gold

Sir Arthur Gold CBE was one of the most influential athletics officials of his generation and a pioneering anti-drugs campaigner throughout the sports world. He was 85 and had been ill for some time.

Trevor Frecknall

During a lifetime in athletics, his roles included President of the European AA, Honorary Secretary of the British Amateur Athletics Board, Chairman of the British Olympic Association, leader of national teams at both Olympic and Commonwealth Games, President of both the Amateur Athletic Association and the Counties Athletic Union – and pioneering contributions in both the UK and Europe when the sport launched its anti-doping agencies.

During his 12 years as the part-time, unpaid leader of the BAAB – which had the task of selecting and preparing Great Britain Teams for Olympic Games, European Championships and representative matches against other nations – he declined an invitation to become the coun-



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try's first full-time athletics director on the grounds that the sport could not afford to fund such a post. He came to be known as the last of the sport's great Corinthian administrators; and another 20 years were to elapse before the sport was governed in the UK by a single organization staffed by full-time, paid employees.

Born on 10 January 1917, the son of the late Mark and Leah Gold, his first love in

athletics was high jumping as a member of the oldest club in the world, London AC (which was to make him President in its centenary year, 1962-63). Tall and lean, the young Arthur earned international honours in Great Britain teams while barely out of his teens; and was equally

precocious when he turned to coaching. He was extremely proud to have been one of the youngest men ever to fully qualify as a high jump coach, while he was still competing at international level.

While he continued to high jump to county level until 1960, when he went to the Rome Olympic Games and suffered a serious bout of jaundice, he was increasingly associated with coaching – and broadening the minds and knowledge of other coaches – from the moment he went to the Amateur Athletic Association's inaugural Summer School in 1934. He worked as the voluntary organizer of the AAA special coaching scheme from 1957-62.

So it was no real surprise, when in January 1965 he became Honorary Secretary of the British Amateur Athletics Board, that he arranged for the BAAB's principal national coaches, John Le Masurier and Denis Watts, to attend meetings of the Board and its selection committee.

When he was invited by the BAAB in June 1970 to accept a salaried appointment as director of British athletics, it seemed the logical next step towards professionalising the way in which the sport was run. It was out of character for him to back away from a leadership challenge; but he de-

Milestones in Sir Arthur Gold's EAA career

1967: Election into the European Committee of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

1969: Preliminary EAA Congress to prepare the constitution.

1970: The IAAF Congress in Stockholm (SWE) approves the Constitution of the European Athletic Association.

November 1976: Election as EAA President at the Extraordinary Congress in Reykjavik (ISL), succeeding Adriaan Paulen (NED) who had been elected IAAF President three months earlier.

1979 and 1983: Reelection at the EAA congresses.

1987: At the Congress in Bratislava (CZE) Sir Arthur Gold was no longer standing as candidate. So Carl-Olaf Homén was elected as EAA President. Sir Arthur Gold became Honorary Life President.

Under his presidency, the EAA developed in two areas:

- Agreements were concluded with the European Broadcasting Union for both guaranteeing the presence of television at the main competitions of the EAA and for getting regular and increased television fees. In the meantime other agreements were negotiated with Marketing companies in order to obtain additional income resulting from the appearance of sponsors at televised events.
- The competitions were permanently adjusted to the necessary evolution either initiated by the Council or proposed by Members. A new competition was created, the European Marathon Cup, for men only in 1981 and for men and women in 1983, 1985 and 1988. Then, taking into consideration that only very EAA Members were able to control their long distance runners, the Cup was interrupted and resumed in 1994 in connection with the individual events of the Helsinki European Championships.

In addition during all eleven years Sir Arthur Gold always battled for the independence of the EAA as the first and most powerful continental association in athletics.

clined because "among other considerations, the AAA suddenly had financial problems and I deemed it inopportune to take a salaried appointment with the Board when one of its constituent members was having to dismiss employed staff."

As he remained BAAB Honorary Secretary until 1977, he was at the centre of the initial negotiations to establish a single governing body, The British Athletic Federation. The recommendation stemmed from The Byers Report, which was published in May 1978 – six months before the Mexico Olympic Games – and also called for a professional Director of British Athletics supported by a team of professional administrators and coaches, a reorganization of the coaching scheme, proficiency awards to encourage more children into the sport, the introduction of league competition between clubs, and a registration scheme for all athletes.

Meanwhile, Sir Arthur's influence broadened to international spheres of athletics, though he continued to make his living in the motor retail trade, becoming a Fellow of the Institute of the Motor.

He was Chairman of the British Olympic Association 1984-1992 and Vice-President from 1993 onwards. He was Leader of the BOA athletics teams to the Games in Mexico in 1968, Munich in 1972 and Montreal in 1976 – and leader of the full GB Olympic Teams at both the Winter and Summer Games of 1992 in Albertville and Barcelona. He was also Commandant of the England teams at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982, Edinburgh in 1986 and Auckland in 1990.

When he served the European Athletics Association, he was proud to consider that he was continuing a British tradition of forming opinion at international level within the sport; a trend that had begun when Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1894 sought the help of Charles Herbert to transform his Olympic idea into practical achievement.

He was made a CBE in 1974 and a decade later earned a knighthood for his service to athletics.

While a member of the Sports Council from 1980-88, he was one of the first to recognize the dangers of drug-taking and accepted roles that were at the heart of the struggle to erase them from the sport. He was Chairman of the Sports Council Drug Abuse Advisory Committee from 1981-92, Chairman of the European Sports Confederation Drug Abuse Advisory Group from 1985-91, and Vice-Chairman of the European Committee on Doping in Sports (Strasbourg) from 1983-90.

Sir Arthur never slipped quietly into retirement. Even after he relinquished the Presidency of the European AA, he remained a regular visitor to the corridors of power, rarely missing a major meeting of the IAAF.

The older he got, the more he seemed to relish the intrigue of each succeeding committee room; and when the British Athletic Federation (BAF) was eventually formed in 1991 – some two decades after it was first mooted – he never held a high rank within the organization, though he remained a great influence with many key members of the new body.

After the BAF was succeeded by UK Athletics as the national governing body of the sport in 1997, Sir Arthur continued to make regular pilgrimages from his London home to AAA of England and Inter-Counties Championships around the UK until last year, when both he and his wife fell ill. Lady Marion Gold, whom he had married in 1942, died on 8 January this year.

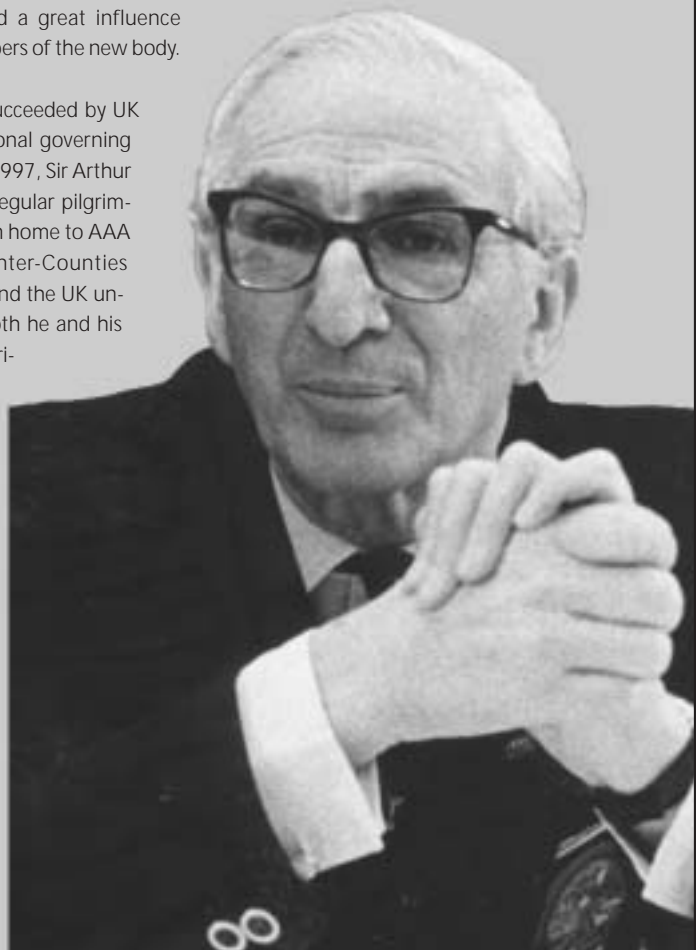
Sir Arthur himself often observed that he had been in athletics so long, he had experienced all 'Seven Ages of the High Jumper.' He explained: «At stage one, the official calls you by the number you are wearing. At stage

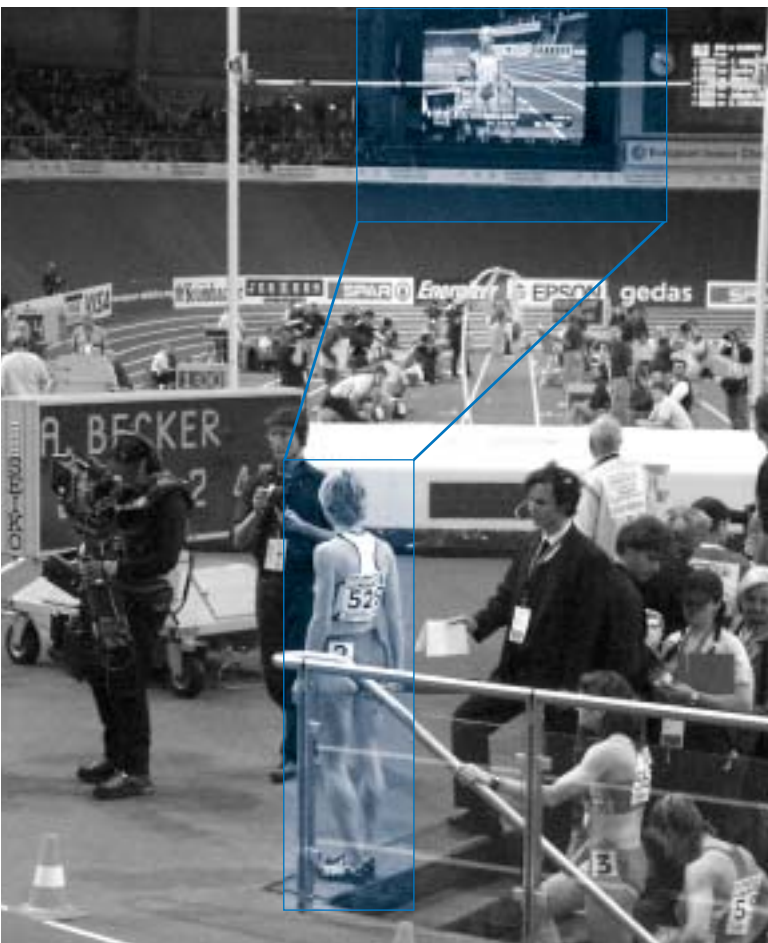
The current EAA President, **Hansjörg Wirz**, has strong memories of Sir Arthur. «As President of the EAA from 1976 to 1987, Arthur led the EAA through a period of great change and was a highly respected and influential figure in international athletics. As Honorary Life President he continued his close interest in the EAA, attending championships and, indeed, Council Meetings until only a year or two ago. He will be missed by his many European friends.»

John Lister, the European AA Council member who has succeeded Sir Arthur as President of the CAU, said: «Arthur was a giant in athletics – with encyclopedic knowledge of the sport. The first time I met him was a very long time ago when I was a young athlete attending a course at which Arthur was one of the coaches. He conducted for about a dozen of us a seminar on high jump coaching, and I was inspired by what he had to say.»

two, he recognizes you, and says, 'You're next!' Stage three, he uses your surname. Stage four, he uses your first name. Stage five, as you get older, you become 'Mr Gold'. Stage six, he advises gently, 'You're next, Sir.' Stage seven, he helps you out of the sand pit!»

Seeing the high jump landing area change from crude sand pit to soft landing bed was one of the minor changes he oversaw in his lifetime in athletics. Rest in peace, Sir Arthur.





A new form of athletes' presentation has been used at the European Indoor Championships in Vienna. The athletes came out from the stairs, were shown on the videoboard and presented by the announcer.

Event Presentation is a key element for the attractiveness of an athletics event

Modernisation versus Tradition

With the European Indoor Championships in Vienna the European Athletic Association made a vital step forward in the way an athletics event is presented to the crowd. The traditionalists, followers of the sports for decades, couldn't agree with the general good feelings however.

Nicolas Russi

«Leichtathletik», the German athletics magazine, which commented in a positive and supportive way on the «Vienna style», raised a big discussion. «All things considered we felt that it could have been a bit less loud», wrote a fan, who thought that too much noise was a health risk. «The golden middle road could be the right one, a well balanced mixture of common and new elements», he added in his letter. Further reactions were a bit stronger. «... the European Indoor Championships were presented in an inappropriate way: Disco music on an ear-splitting level,

which destroyed all consumption, and in addition the announcer as an another source of noise.» ... «The TV transmission from Vienna let us expect bad things ...» «Have I now to accept announcers who start a tremendous talk ten minutes prior to the competition, which only ends after the last victory ceremony?»

All of these writers are apparently fans who have probably followed athletics for their life-time. So they know everything about statistics, historical background and rules often better than others. They follow the competition not just with start lists, pens and paper, but also statistical handbooks in their bag. They know a lot,

they have stories and anecdotes to tell each other, so they can enjoy the sport without help.

But there are also others, who are lost when runners, jumpers and throwers are competing all at the same time. They want to encourage the athletes and to celebrate performances but often they do not know where and when. It is useless to have an announcer say «... and that was a new best performance in the discus by A» instead of leading the eyes and attention in advance to the throwing event with «... next thrower in the discus, A for his fifth attempt ...»

Emotion and atmosphere are key-words. Creativity as well as the conviction, that a certain financial investment in that area is not a waste of money, are needed. The following texts shall give some input into this area and launch a wider discussion. Not just for the top level events but even more for the smaller ones where there are less high class performances and where there is more flexibility to try new ways. ■

A newer function in athletics gains more importance

Event Presentation Manager

The importance of the way athletics is presented to the crowd increases continuously. The Event Presentation Manager is a newer function in the organisation which should ensure that the duties and expectations can be fulfilled, without compromising the competition of course.

José Luis de Carlos

The Event Presentation Manager (EPM) not only has the responsibility of planning, leading and coordinating a production of all the activities that take place in-field but also integrating them into the one show that is presented to the spectators within the venue. The final aim of his work is to create an entertaining, lively and attractive production of the show that is to be offered to the spectators. To succeed in this it is necessary to have a team and the necessary equipment to carry out the work.

As it is a new role which is not included in the minds of the people that usually work for our sport, it is essential that this role is recognised and accepted by them and they are convinced of the necessity of this function. Maybe, rather than an EPM, the name of this function should be Competition Director which would shock

many of our referees who associate the name of the Competition Director with the activity that some jury members carry out under IAAF Rules.

Apart from the name it must be made clear to the referees that the EPM (or any other name we may use) has the responsibility for managing a certain event for production purposes to maximise the interest of spectators both within the stadium and those viewing the event on TV. It is obvious that these interventions can not be undertaken indiscriminately and will always be in accordance with IAAF basic technical rules.

Once the authority level of this new role has been decided we can define the different areas and the people that must make up the working group as well as the material they should have.

Duties

The Event Presentation Manager will be the person in charge of coordinating the activities of the event presentation staff working in-field and those out-field who are related to this role – more clearly defined below.

Manpower

It is recommended to have the collaboration of the following people in order to carry out this work:

- 1) Event Presentation Manager's Assistant
- 2) Videoboard Manager
- 3) Speaker A (English)
- 4) Speaker B (French)
- 5) Speaker C (infield)
- 6) Music Producer
- 7) Two TV Cameras
- 8) Two Infield Coordinators

Technical Equipment:

- 1) A Videoboard (+/- 40 m²)
- 2) A Videoboard mixing desk capable of mixing four different feeds.
- 3) High quality PA system equipment.
- 4) A screen with all the TV production signals .
- 5) A communication system between the members of the team and the main competition referees.
- 6) Audio connection with the TV Producer.





The duties of each member of the Event Presentation Team will be as follows:

Event Presentation Manager (EPM)

A person with an lively mind, expert in athletics, with conviction and leadership qualities, authoritarian and with enough technical knowledge of TV and audio-visual means to make optimum use of the human and technical capabilities.

Videoboard manager (VM)

A person in charge of the images and information which appear on the video board. There is a choice of two systems to carry out this work:

- a) the Videoboard is connected to the TV feed and just the Host Broadcaster's images (integrated feed) will be transmitted. In this case, a technician to make the connection and control the broadcast is required instead of a manager. Obviously this solution, whilst being the most economical is the least imaginative and the less advisable.
- b) The Videoboard is connected to the TV but requests a clean feed and if possible a signal from each production so that the most interesting images of a specific moment can be shown. If possible two cameras connected to the Videoboard would be the ideal so that the spectators' attention can be directed to the most interesting moments (such as crowd

competitions, athletes' celebratory moments ...) or places (such as presentation of an event and awards..). In order to have all this, the VM needs a meticulous preparation of a running order which regulates and co-ordinates the following functions:

b.1. Competition Sponsors' Videos. (compile, check and broadcast them before and after every working day according to each one's contractual rights).

b.2. Presentation of the graphics supplied by the computing company (Result graphics, presentation lane by lane, records' graphics...). In order to be successful, the VM must be familiar with the computer company's graphic capabilities (it must be taken into account that in a competition like the SPAR European Cup the number of graphic boards may be more than 50). There must be programming to show all the statistical boards, the results and the scoring after every event.

b.3. Coordination of the two LOC cameras. Mainly they must be used for the following activities:

- Presentation of every event
- Crowd competitions
- Award Ceremonies (just in case the Host Broadcaster does not show it)
- Special moments (in the stands, a quiz etc...)

b.4. To show an image at any specific moment even if TV is not broadcasting. For example, a local thrower or jumper may be about to take his attempt.

b.5. Coordination with the announcers during presentation and throughout the course of what is being shown on the board.

Announcers

In the case of an event like the SPAR European Cup there are two traditionally positioned announcers needed (French and English) as well as an infield speaker. These people will lead the event and must guide the spectator's attention to the most attractive moments. Above all, they must create the atmosphere «in crescendo» around the competition and focus on the athletes' participation rather than on the struggle between teams to win the overall competition. What must be enhanced is that the winners are all heroes for the contribution made to their team. The announcers must be prepared in advance and well co-ordinated with the Videoboard, the TV and the music, but it is very important that, even though they must keep up with the pre-arranged running order, they must have improvisation qualities in order to make the show exciting and enjoyable.

Music Producer

Music is fundamental to the show and must be well coordinated. It worked in Vienna (EICH) as the person who was in charge had the software in his computer which activated the whole device just with four or five keys, at the same time as he was speaking.

Infield attaché

Two people must be in-field, to act as the EPM's hands. They will coordinate athletes' presentation, optimise the events' coverage both with spectators and TV viewers. Doubtless, to manage this team needs some previous co-ordination experience as well as an awareness that each person is part of a group in which all know what each other is doing. It is very important to be in contact with the Host Broadcaster's producer and to explain the ideas and kind of work they want to carry out. Ask him/her for his/her contribution and involvement from the very beginning. ■

jdecarlos@fea.es

José Luis de Carlos is Member of the EAA Council and the EAA Top Events Group

Peter Betten has more than 15 years of experience in event presentation

«We have to create a good atmosphere»

«The most important thing in relation to event presentation is that we create a good atmosphere. This is the additional value element distinguishing it from watching the same event at home on tv.» This, says the German Peter Betten (61, Heidelberg), who has more than 15 years experience in event presentation and who was involved in Vienna and will be again in Munich.

Nicolas Russi

At the European Indoor Championships in Vienna you directed the video board. What is your general impression about the overall event presentation?

Peter Betten: «Vienna was clearly a positive step, a step forward towards having a better presentation of the competition for the public. The music was a very important part of it. In addition we had a very good videoboard with a high resolution which helped to achieve our aims.»

Most of the criticism is related to the music which was apparently too loud.

Betten: «The music is the element which raised most of the discussion. Already during this event some of the long-time fans came around. In an indoor arena you can easily create an atmosphere like you have at the six-days. I have the feeling that most of the spectators enjoyed that, and for an indoor event, it was great. In addition some of the athletes gave us signs of encouragement to do more, for instance in the high jump final.»

There were even shot putters asking for more of a reaction by moving their arms. Generally the athletes adapted themselves to this style, and

they are asking for this kind of thing more and more. Are there some details which were totally new or which you would do in the future in another form?

Betten: «This is the first time I have worked with virtual flags for the medal ceremonies. For the athletes I think it is negative. Because then we have to show the flags on the videoboard and we can not show the athletes' emotions on the podium.

Secondly we did a new kind of athletes' presentation before the competition. They had to come out from the tunnel in the infield. The athletes were not used to this and it happened at a time when they are very focussed and less willing to communicate and to show emotions. Then the crowd competition is a matter we have to think about. In Vienna we didn't have a special camera to cover the crowd competition and to show the winners on the videoboard. It is always a problem to find a gap between the competitions which is long enough to insert this element.»

Critics are concerned about what will happen in that sense in Munich. What should we expect?

Betten: «First of all we will use the music as a discreet tool. We discussed the kind of music that doesn't affect the tv coverage too much with the host broadcaster. It's true when they transmit pre-recorded

jumps or throws then it is disturbing to have different styles and pieces of music playing in the background. So a generally rhythmic style fits best into this matter. We will have athletes' interviews in the mixed zone shown on the videoboard, conducted by an in-field speaker who has also some kind of entertainment tasks. We will do athletes' presentations, and also interviews with special guests like former athletes.»

What is the best way to improve the atmosphere?

Betten: «The best element is the sport itself. Thrilling duels with top athletes can raise the atmosphere very well. But we have to 'sell' these duels and give the related information as best as we can to the crowd.» ■

betten@athletics-ec-2002.com

Peter Betten works for the LOC in Munich. He has been for a long time regularly involved in the event presentation at athletics events in Germany, among them also at the European Championships 1986 and the World Championships 1993 in Stuttgart.



Figures Facts & Figures

EAA Directory Changes

EAA Council

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(Pr)

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(page 36)
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■ GER

(page 38)
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http://www.leichtathletik.de

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(page 39)
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35 93 02
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35 85 94

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(page 39)
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Fax: (36 1) 4 71 96 43
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36
Tel Intern. Sec: (36 1) 4 71
96 35

■ IRL

(page 39)
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Heery
New Honorary Secretary:
Georgina Drumm
New International Secretary:
Liam Hennessy

■ LTU

(page 40)
Change of tel/fax numbers:
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Tel./Fax (370 2) 33 99 71

■ NED

(page 42)
New General Secretary:
Gert Hekkert

■ UKR

(page 44)
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Tel. (380 44) 55 80 819 (Sec
Pr)

Other Organisations

■ WMRA

Danny Hughes
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(page 49)
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European Champion Clubs Cup (25/26 May)

The Sports Club Luch from Moscow won the European
Champion Clubs Cup in Lisbon POR. The Russian team won both
titles men and women like one year ago.

Men. Group A: SC Luch (RUS) 165. 2. Dukla Praha (CZE) 130. 3. Sporting CP
(POR) 119. 4. VB Carabinieri (ITA) 107. 5. Puma Chapin Jerez (ESP) 97.5. 6. Belgra-
ve Harriers (GBR) 97. 7. CA Montreuil (FRA) 70. 8. Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR) 58.5. 9.
FC Porto (POR) 55.

Group B: 1. Panellinios AC (GRE) 115. 2. AAC Amsterdam (NED) 90. 3. Sparta IF
(DEN) 83. 4. AC Stavbar PS Nitra (SVK) 75.5. 5. ST Bern (SUI) 72. 6. Crusaders AC
(IRL) 69. 7. GS Olympia (CYP) 53.5.

Women. Group A: 1. SC Luch (RUS) 138. 2. Valencia CA Terra i Mar (ESP) 108. 3.
Panellinios AC (GRE) 92.5. 4. Sporting CP (POR) 91. 5. PSK Olymp Praha (CZE)
81.5. 6. SAI Assicura PA (ITA) 80. 7. CA Montreuil (FRA) 49. 8. Sparta AC (DEN) 41.

Women. Group B (in Amsterdam NED): 1. Sale Harriers Manchester (GBR) 99. 2.
Slavia UK Bratislava (SVK) 73. 3. SWE 72. 4. AAC Amsterdam (NED) 68. 5. CRO 68.
6. ISR 62. 7. BEL 56.

EAA Council met in Düsseldorf GER (26-28 April)

At its meeting on 26 - 28 April in Düsseldorf (GER) the EAA
Council took the following decisions:

- The European Championships 2006 in Göteborg (SWE) will be held from 8 to 13 August.
- The Entry standards for the European Championships " under 23" in Bydgoszcz (POL/17 - 20 July) and the European Junior Championships 2003 in Tampere (FIN/24-27 July) have been approved. For the first time in 2003 the steeple chase will be also included in the junior's women program (2000 m).
- The timetable for the European Junior Championships as well as for the European Championships «under 23» will be adapted in the sense that the two first days mainly will contain heats, qualifications and the combined events and that most of the finals will be concentrated on Saturday and Sunday.
- The first edition of the European Indoor Cup on 15 February 2003 will be held definitively in Leipzig (GER).
- Following the Congress decision to introduce officially the European Mountain Running Championships a EAA Mountain Running Commission will be formed. This new commission will be chaired by EAA Council member Al Guy (IRL). The other members will be Erika Strasser (AUT) and four European representatives from the board of the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA).
- In order to go forward in the battle against doping and following the EAA Anti-doping Resolution adopted in Göteborg 2000 the Council formed a EAA Anti-doping Working Group. This Group is composed of Clemens Prokop (GER / Chairman / legal matters and liaison with the IAAF Anti Doping Commission), Prof. Hemmersbach (NOR / IOC laboratory Oslo, scientific and analytical matters), Georg Facius (DEN / practical matters), Manuel Alonso (ESP / medical matters). The group will discuss and define its tasks in a more detailed form at its first meeting.
- Among several rules changes approved by the Council there is a slight modification concerning the 4x400m relay qualification for the European Indoor Championships. In the future beside the 400m also the 400m hurdles performances will be taken into consideration.
- The entry deadline for the European Cups has been shortened to 6 days (instead of 10). Often the weekend before the European Cups is used as National qualification.

Entry Standards for the European Championships under 23 in Bydgoszcz POL (17-20 July 2003)

Men	Events	Women
10.50	100 m	11.80
21.25	200 m	23.85
47.10	400 m	54.20
1:49.00	800 m	2:06.00
3:44.50	1 500 m	4:20.00
14:15.00	5 000 m	16:30.00
29:55.00	10 000 m	35:30.00
14.20	110 m H / 100 m H	13.85
51.75	400 m H	59.50
8:52.00	3 000 m St	10:42.00
2.18	High Jump	1.83
5.25	Pole Vault	3.95
7.60	Long Jump	6.25
15.85	Triple Jump	13.05
17.55	Shot Put	14.85
53.00	Discus	50.00
67.50	Hammer	57.50
70.00	Javelin	51.50
NES*	4 x 100 m	NES*
NES*	4 x 400 m	NES*
7200	Dec. / Hept.	5400
1:28:00	20 000 m Walk	1:43:00

*NES = No Entry Standard

Entries (EAA Regulation 403.4):

A maximum of three athletes entered by any one EAA member may compete provided that each athlete has reached the qualifying standard. Provided that any EAA member enters only one athlete for any event such athlete shall not be required to have reached the qualifying standard for that event.

The qualifying standards shall be achieved in bona fide competition (either indoors or outdoors) between January 1st 2002 and the closing date for entries. Two, three or four athletes can initially be entered per event provided that all have reached the qualifying standards for that event.

Where no standard is set a member may enter up to four athletes of whom only three may.

European Winter Throwing Challenge 2002 (9/10 March)

The Spanish shot putter Manuel Martinez with 20.92 m, hammer thrower Aleksey Zagornyi (RUS) with 82.27 m and Vita Pavlysh (UKR) wie a shot put performance of 20.03 m were the outstanding athletes at the European Winter Throwing Challenge held in Pula (CRO). 177 athletes competed in the eight events, which were divided into an A and a B group.

Results Saturday

Men. Shot put: 1. Manuel Martinez (ESP) 20.92. 2. Leszek Sliwa (POL) 19.78. 3. Milan Haborak (SVK) 19.66.
Discus: 1. David Martinez (ESP) 63.09. 2. Aleksandr Borichevski (RUS) 61.72. 3. Gerd Kanter (EST) 61.56.
Hammer: 1. Aleksey Zagornyi (RUS) 82.27. 2. Alexandros Papadimitriou (GRE) 79.67. 3. Miloslav Konopka (SVK) 78.58.
Javelin: 1. Aleksandr Ivanov (RUS) 81.71. 2. Stefan Wenk (GER) 78.46. 3. Marian Bokor (SVK) 76.91.
Women. Shot put: 1. Vita Pavlysh (UKR) 20.03. 2. Assunta Legnante (ITA) 18.15. 3. Irina Khudorozhkina (RUS) 17.88.
Discus: 1. Valentina Ivanova (RUS) 60.28. 2. Viktoriya (UKR) 60.07. 3. Natalya Ampleeva (RUS) 59.29.
Hammer: 1. Susanne Keil (GER) 66.54. 2. Vania Silva (POR) 65.46. 3. Lorraine Shaw (GBR) 64.81.
Javelin: 2. Claudia Coslovich (ITA) 63.27. 2. Valeria Zabruskova (RUS) 62.69. 3. Dörthe Friedrich (GER) 59.02.

Entry Standards for the European Junior Championships in Tampere FIN (24-27 July 2003)

Men	Events	Women
10.70	100 m	11.90
21.60	200 m	24.40
48.00	400 m	54.80
1:51.30	800 m	2:08.00
3:49.00	1500 m	4:24.00
---	3000 m	9:37.00
14:30.00	5000 m	---
31:10.00	10 000 m	---
14.60	110 m H / 100 m H	14.10
53.00	400 m H	60.40
9:07.00	3000 m St / 2000 m St	NES*
2.14	High Jump	1.81
5.10	Pole Vault	3.75
7.50	Long Jump	6.15
15.40	Triple Jump	12.85
16.00	Shot Put	14.50
49.10	Discus	47.00
59.50	Hammer	54.00
66.50	Javelin	49.00
NES*	4 x 100 m	NES*
NES*	4 x 400 m	NES*
6'850	Dec. / Hept.	5'250
44:40:00	10 000 m Walk	NES

*NES = No Entry Standard

Entries (EAA Regulation 503.4):

A maximum of three athletes entered by any one EAA member may compete provided that each athlete has reached the qualifying standard. Provided that any EAA member enters only one athlete for any event such athlete shall not be required to have reached the qualifying standard for that event.

The qualifying standards shall be achieved in bona fide competition (either indoors or outdoors) between January 1st 2002 and the closing date for entries. Two, three or four athletes can initially be entered per event provided that all have reached the qualifying standards for that event.

Where no standard is set a member may enter up to four athletes of whom only three may compete.

European 10000 m Challenge 2002 in Pula CRO (9/10 March)

Dieter Baumann (GER) in a close battle with José Rios (ESP) and Mihaela Botezan (ROM) more than 20 seconds ahead of Fernanda Ribeiro (POR) won the European 10000 m Challenge in Camaiore (ITA). Baumann run a time of 27:38.51, Botezan a personal best of 31:19.74.

Men: 1. Dieter Baumann (GER) 27:38.51. 2. José Rios (ESP) 27:38.82. 2. Marco Mazza (ITA) 27:44.05.

Teams: 1. Italy (Mazza/Gamba/Zanon) 1:24:25.40. 2. Spain (Rios/Martinez/Cunado) 1:24:27.20. 3. Germany (Baumann/Krockert/Lubina) 1:24:35.38.

Women: 1. Mihaela Botezan (ROM) 31:19.74. 2. Fernanda Ribeiro (POR) 31:40.80. 3. Luisa Larraga (ESP) 31:45.85.

Teams: 1. Portugal (Ribeiro/Dias/Rosa) 1:36:29.94. 2. Spain (Larraga/Santiago/Agullar) 1:38:01.57. 3. Italy (Marconi/Balsamo/Sommaggio) 1:38:31.51.



EAA

IMPRESSUM

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d'Athlétisme

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Three Olympic Champions met in Düsseldorf

On the occasion of the EAA Council meeting in Düsseldorf, three past Olympic Champion in athletics met at the dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Wolfgang

Clement. Annegret Richter (FRG) won the 100 m sprint in 1976, Irena Szewinska (POL) the 200 m in 1968 and the 400 m in 1976, and Ulrike Meyfarth (FRG) the high jump in 1972.

@online @corner

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">EAA Events 2002</div> <p>SPAR European Cup in Annecy FRA www.annecy2002.athle.com</p> <p>European Cup First League Group A in Banska Bystrica SVK http://www.saz.sk/SAZ/NEW/main.nsf/0/C48B3A624DA9910AC1256BB3006A974D?OpenDocument</p> <p><i>(www.saz.sk -> Aktuality -> European Cup Banska</i></p> <p>European Cup First League Group B in Sevilla ESP www.rfea.es/competi/cpeuropasevilla2002/index.htm</p> <p>European Cup Second League Group A in Tallinn EST www.sport.ee/ekij/EKVingl.htm</p> <p>European Cup Combined Events Super League in Bydgoszcz POL www.pzla.pl</p>	<p>European Cup Combined Events First League in Riga LAT www.lat-athletics.lv/index.php?level1=</p> <p>European Cup Combined Events Second League in Maribor SLO www.adm98.org/evropski_pokal_druga_liga.html</p> <p>European Mountain Running Championships in Camara de Lobos, Madeira POR www.fpatletismo.pt/1emrch</p> <p>European Championships in Munich GER www.athletics-ec-2002.com</p> <p>SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Medulin CRO www.cross2002.com.hr</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Others</div> <p>Commonwealth Games 2002 in Manchester GBR www.commonwealthgames2002.org.uk</p> <p>World Mountain Running Association WMRA www.wmra.info</p> <p>World Masters Athletics WMA www.world-masters-athletics.org</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">EAA Championships 2006</div> <p>European Championships in Göteborg SWE www.goteborg2006.com</p>
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START

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11



Interview with Paula Radcliffe, World Cross Country Champion and fastest European woman in the marathon

«A standing ovation for 26.2 miles»

In the space of three weeks, Britain's leading distance runner retained her world cross title in Dublin and then won her marathon debut in 2hr 18min 56sec, the fastest time in a women's only race and only nine seconds outside Catherine Ndereba's world record.

Mike Rowbottom

How satisfied to you now feel about your debut marathon, which veteran athletics observer Stan Greenberg described as the most remarkable run he had ever seen?

Paula Radcliffe: «I am happy with how the Flora London marathon worked out for me. I have always said that my main goals for the winter would be to win the IAAF World Cross Country in Dublin and London marathon. I achieved both of these targets so obviously I can now move onto my next goals. I have received so many emails, cards and letters and it has been a bit overwhelming and something I didn't expect.»

How different was it to any other athletic experience you have had,

and did anything surprise you about it?

Radcliffe: «I learn lessons every time I compete, and try to use them in my future competitions. I think I will always be learning, experimenting and trying new ideas. This is one of the reasons I find running so exciting, and running the marathon was a new challenge, focus and direction. The crowd support that I experienced was amazing. I think I described it as having a standing ovation for 26.2 miles.

I really enjoyed it and what I learned I will take with me for the future. I don't consider myself to be the most naturally-talented of athletes, it's just that my body can withstand hard training and I'm also very strong mentally. When I was a young athlete there were runners of the same age who had more ability than I had but

Paula Radcliffe

- born: 17 December 1973, Northwich (GBR)
- 1.73 m / 54 kg
- Degree in European languages from Loughborough University
- **Olympic Games** 1996: 5th 5000 m. 2000: 4th 10000 m
- **World Championships** 1993: 7th 3000 m. 1995: 5th 5000 m. 1997: 4th 5000 m. 1998: 2nd Cross Country. 1999: 2nd 10000 m, 3rd Cross Country. 2000: 1st Half Marathon. 2001: 1st Cross Country (2nd Cross Country short), 1st Half Marathon, 4th 10000 m. 2002: 1st Cross Country.
- **European Championships** 1998: 1st Cross Country, 5th 5000 m.
- **European Marathon Best:** 2:18:56 (London, 14 April 2002)
- **European Half Marathon Best:** 1:06:47 (Bristol, 7 October 2001)

I wouldn't like to say they could have achieved what I have.»

How much faster do you hope to go, and do you have any plans concerning your next marathon?

Radcliffe: «At the moment I am undecided about my future plans. The summer season is very important to me, but it will be more selective than previous years. I am certainly very excited about running

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26



LONDON MARATHON

another marathon, but when and where is yet to be decided.»

What are your targets for the forthcoming track season, and how much do you think your marathon experience will benefit you in this area?

Radcliffe: «My main targets for the summer are the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and the European Championships in Munich. I intend to take the physical and mental strength from the marathon and translate that into improved times on the track. I have always had great respect for Ingrid Kristiansen and how her track profile benefited after marathon training.»

You have mentioned Ingrid Kristiansen's European 10,000 metres record as one of your targets this year. Do you think either you or any other runner will eclipse the Chinese world records at either 5,000 or 10,000 metres? How do most runners regard these records?

Radcliffe: «Both of these records are in the book, so...I think the 5k record is 'softer' than the 10k record, but these are standards that you have to aspire to. When I stood on the start line in London I was also in 10,000m personal best shape. You have to be to race against a field like that. I've just broken Ingrid Kristiansen's European marathon record of 2:21.06 and I'd love now to take her European 10,000k record (30min 13.74sec).

It probably won't be this year because I'll

struggle to fit in two 10,000m races. I didn't do the European Challenge because I was preparing for London and it might be too much to do the Europeans and another one. But it's definitely a record I'd like to attack in future. I don't know if I could break Wang Junxia's world record (29min 31.78sec) but it's possible to run under 30 minutes.»

Is this the happiest time of your life? (And if not, why not?)

Radcliffe: «Right now I am pleased with how things are going. I am progressing and improving and most importantly enjoying what I am doing.» ■

Mrowbo@aol.com

Mike Rowbottom GBR is sports writer and columnist of The Independent.



Medal tables in Mountain Running Senior Men and Women

■ World Mountain Running Trophy 1985 - 2001

Men (17 races individual and team long, 8 races individual and team short)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ITA	36	15	10	61
ENG	4	4	9	17
AUT	2	9	4	15
NZL	2	0	2	4
COL	2	0	1	3
SUI	1	9	5	15
FRA	1	8	4	13
USA	1	1	0	2
IRL	1	0	1	2
SCO	0	3	2	5
GER	0	1	3	4
FRG	0	0	7	7
CZE	0	0	1	1
ESP	0	0	1	1
Total	50	50	50	150

Women (17 races individual and team)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ITA	8	12	6	26
FRA	8	4	5	17
AUT	5	2	2	9
SUI	4	2	3	9
NZL	2	2	3	7
COL	2	1	0	3
SCO	2	0	3	5
ENG	1	4	3	8
FRG	1	1	2	4
CZE	1	1	1	3
POL	0	2	2	4
GER	0	2	1	3
SVK	0	1	2	3
BEL	0	0	1	1
Total	34	34	34	102

■ European Mountain Running Trophy 1995 - 2001

Men (7 races individual and team)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ITA	10	3	4	17
FRA	2	4	3	9
AUT	2	1	2	5
ENG *	0	3	2	5
SCO *	0	1	0	1
SUI	0	1	0	1
SVK	0	1	1	2
GER	0	0	1	1
POR	0	0	1	1
Total	14	14	14	42

Women (7 races individual and team)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ITA	4	2	6	12
SUI	4	1	2	7
FRA	3	3	2	8
POL	2	0	0	2
RUS	1	0	0	1
ENG *	0	3	2	5
GER	0	3	1	4
SCO *	0	2	0	2
BEL	0	0	1	1
Total	14	14	14	42

* This countries have to merge into a British team for the European Mountain Running Championships.

Area Medal Standings World Youth Championships Debrecen/HUN

Area	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Percentage
AFRICA	5	11	6	22	18,8%
ASIA	6	3	5	14	12,0%
EUROPE	16	13	16	45	38,5%
NACAC	7	10	10	27	23,1%
OCEANIA	4	3	1	8	6,8%
S. AMERICA	1	0	0	1	0,9%
Total	39	40	38	117	100,0%

Countries in Total 34
European Countries 14
Percentage of European Countries 41,18%