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Newsletter of the European Athletic Association

1|05 April



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President's Message

HANSJÖRG WIRZ



Every four years the Olympic Games offer the possibility to compare not only performances, but also the interest of the public in different Olympic sports. Based on last year's Olympics in Athens our sport can be proud of the results. Once more it was shown that without athletics the Games would lose a lot of their value.

Our sport has a long tradition and there is a general understanding of our activities. Running, jumping and throwing are elements that are known to the public. Our sport is successful at the Olympics but also at other World and Continental Championships and in some of the big meetings. Only a month ago Madrid was the venue for one of the most successful ever European Athletics Indoor Championships, when Europe's best athletes competed in front of sell out crowds and millions of television viewers. It is a picture that we can be proud of.

However, there is another aspect we have to carefully consider and which should not be ignored. We have to be ready to accept that the average age of the spectators in the stadium and on television is increasing. At the same time there are fewer and fewer people who are knowledgeable about our sport. We have to question why this is happening. Certainly tradition has its value but our society is changing and its expectations are not only linked to tradition.

It is very interesting to be sitting in a stadium with people asking, for example, the question why in the decathlon and heptathlon the winner of the last race is not the winner, while in all other races the first athlete at the finish line has won the competition. This is one example of a

question which may come up, but there are several others. As an expert on our sport you may think what a silly question. But the reality is that we have fewer and fewer experts in the stadium. Therefore we have to think about what we can do to enable more people to easily understand our sport and how we can make our competitions more attractive for today's society. Other Olympic sports that have been close to dying have understood the signs of the time and made drastic changes in their rules to make their sport more appealing and bring it closer to spectators.

Our sport has to be careful to take note of these signs. We have to think about where tradition has its value and should be kept and where tradition is preventing us from staying at the highest level as a sport attractive to the public. It is up to us to make the necessary changes and such changes are decided by Congresses. Congresses do not take place every year and that is why the flexibility to react to the signs coming from outside is reduced. We must take a long term view.

Soon we will have on an Area as well as on a World level the Congresses where proposals for changes will be presented. Some of these will help to make our sport more attractive and easier to understand and help to integrate those who are not so familiar with athletics. These Congresses are the chance to take the right steps forward for a successful future.

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Hansjörg Wirz (SUI) is President of the European Athletic Association

MADRID 2005EAA
**EUROPEAN INDOOR
ATHLETICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Holm sets the standard

570 athletes from 43 countries competed at the 28th European Athletics Indoor Championships in the rebuilt Palacio de Deportes in Madrid on 4-6 March. Franco Fava, Athletics Correspondent for Italian newspaper *Il Corriere dello Sport*, writes his impressions of the Championships, focusing on the men's events.



Joan Lino Martinez

It had been a long time since we last saw such an exciting European Athletics Indoor Championships. The 28th Championships in Madrid were highlighted by the confirmation of Sweden as a leading European athletics nation, even in the men's events and despite the absence of two greats such as Christian Olsson in the triple jump and Staffan Strand in the high jump.

It was also the Championships of Spain who grabbed a record 12 medals, two more than its already impressive haul of Vienna 2002, and won the much awaited Gold medal in the last event of the last day of competition courtesy of Joan Lino Martinez in the long jump.

The championships also confirmed Russia's supremacy, with the country improving from Vienna's 12 medals to an impressive total of 17 in Madrid with almost twice as many titles – from five in Austria to nine in Spain.

Over three days the futuristic Palacio de Deportes in Madrid, which on the last two days was filled by a capacity crowd of 9000 spectators, offered the proof that European athletics is growing and is now full of potential just a few months after the demanding Olympic Games in Athens and just a few months before the IAAF World Championships in Helsinki, Finland. Although there was only one World record, the expected leap of Yelena

Ivan Heshko



Medallists

MEN

60m

1. Jason Gardener GBR	6.55
2. Mark Lewis-Francis GBR	6.59
3. Ronald Pognon FRA	6.62

200m

1. Tobias Unger GER	20.53
2. Chris Lambert GBR	20.69
3. Marcin Urbas POL	21.04

400m

1. David Gillick IRE	46.30
2. David Canal ESP	46.64
3. Sebastian Gatzka GER	46.88

800m

1. Dmitriy Bogdanov RUS	1:48.61
2. Antonio Manuel Reina ESP	1:48.76
3. Juan De Dios Jurado ESP	1:49.11

1500m

1. Ivan Heshko UKR	3:36.70
2. Juan Carlos Higuero ESP	3:37.98
3. Reyes Estévez ESP	3:38.90

3000m

1. Alistair Cragg IRE	7:46.32
2. John Mayock GBR	7:51.46
3. Reyes Estévez ESP	7:51.65

60m Hurdles

1. Ladjji Doucouré FRA	7.50
2. Felipe Vivancos ESP	7.61
3. Robert Kronberg SWE	7.65

High Jump

1. Stefan Holm SWE	2.40
2. Yaroslav Rybakov RUS	2.38
3. Pavel Fomenko RUS	2.32

Isinbayeva (Russia) in the pole vault, and an almost World record by the exuberant Carolina Klüft (Sweden) in the pentathlon, it is important to note that no fewer than 12 performances out of 28 finals were better than the last edition in Vienna.

Only three champions from Vienna retained their titles in Madrid: Belgium's Kim Gevaert in the women's 60m, the Czech Republic's Roman Sebrle in the heptathlon and Great Britain's Jason Gardener, whose 60m title in Madrid was his third consecutive victory and puts him right behind Russia's Valeriy Borzov (seven titles) and Poland's Marian Woronin (five titles) in the multiple Gold medallists standings.

In five men's events the winning performances were largely superior to those in Vienna, most impressive of which was the 2.40m clearance of Sweden's Stefan Holm to win the high jump. The 28-year-old Olympic Champion, who stands at 1.81m, equalled the 'World differential record' with 59cm, a record that belonged to the USA's Franklin Jacobs (1.73m tall who jumped 2.32m). Holm's outstanding victory made up for the notable absences of fellow Swedes Staffan Strand and Christian Olsson who were both crowned three years ago in Vienna in the high jump and triple jump respectively.

Holm's exploit will remain among the most exciting athletics achievements especially since it came at the end of an enthralling duel with Russia's Yaroslav Rybakov, who claimed Silver with 2.38m. Indeed Holm improved his personal best by three

centimetres, an improvement only four others had managed previously. Holm is also only the second jumper to clear 2.40m in the last 11 years together with Vyacheslav Voronin (Russia) who cleared the same height in London in August 2000.

The great success of the Madrid European Athletics Indoor Championships was also built on the amazing victories of Ukraine's Ivan Heshko, winner of the 1500m in a championship record of 3:36.70 (only one man, Spain's José Luis Gonzales had broken the 3:40 barrier in the last 20 years when winning the Athens Championships in 1985), and Russia's Igor Pavlov, who followed his World Indoor title in Budapest last year with the European Indoor title and a personal best of 5.90m. Only one athlete had jumped so high in the history of the championships, Piotr Bochkarev (Russia) who won the title with 5.90m in Paris in 1994.

To top it all Spanish athletes were the real matadors of the Championships with a total of 12 medals, eight won by the men. The fiesta was at its climax although David Canal (400m) and Antonio Reina (800m) had to be content with Silver after being beaten by David Gillick (Ireland) and Dmitriy Bogdanov (Russia). Reyes Estevez won two medals, Bronze in the 1500m and Bronze again in the 3000m. And the most awaited Gold medal which was denied to Manuel Martinez in the shot put finally came thanks to Havana born Juan Lino Martinez, who has competed for Spain since July last year. Martinez improved his personal best from 8.14m to 8.37m, a World leading performance

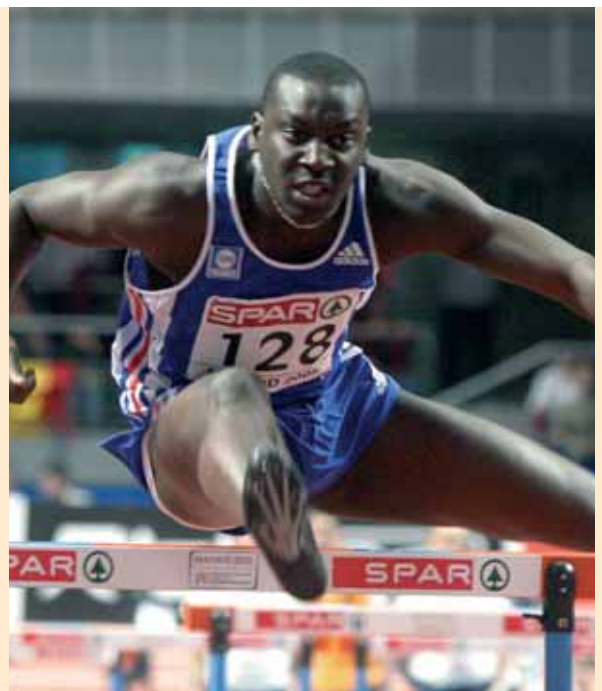


Stefan Holm

and added the European Indoor Gold to his Olympic Bronze medal from Athens. Martinez grabbed the title with his fourth effort, which denied Romania's Bogdan Tarus of an almost certain Gold, and the packed Palacio de Deportes could finally celebrate its golden moment!

FRANCO FAVA

Ladji Doucouré

**Pole Vault**

1. Igor Pavlov RUS	5.90
2. Denys Yurchenko UKR	5.85
3. Tim Lobinger GER	5.80

Long Jump

1. Joan Lino Martinez ESP	8.37
2. Bogdan Tarus ROM	8.14
3. Volodymyr Zyuskov UKR	7.99

Triple Jump

1. Igor Spasovkhodskiy RUS	17.20
2. Mykola Savolainen UKR	17.01
3. Aleksandr Petrenko RUS	16.98

Shot Put

1. Joachim Olsen DEN	21.19
2. Rutger Smith NED	20.79
3. Manuel Martinez ESP	20.51

Heptathlon

1. Roman Sebrle CZE	6232
2. Aleksandr Pogorelov RUS	6111
3. Roland Schwarzl AUT	6064

4x400m

1. France	3:07.90
2. Great Britain & NI	3:09.53
3. Russia	3:09.63

MADRID 2005

EAA EUROPEAN INDOOR
ATHLETICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Isinbayeva and Klüft star

A review of the women's events
by Ursula Kaiser, a German
freelance journalist living in
Stuttgart.



Carolina Klüft

This young woman is unbelievable! Yelena Isinbayeva could probably jump a new World record even if she was woken up and asked to do it in the middle of the night! At four events this year the crowd have seen four World records from the lively and high spirited athlete. In the Palacio de Deportes the 22-year-old ensured that the pole vault was the again the highlight with a 4.90m clearance. And the show and joy after the competition was as nice as the performance itself.

«Right now the bar is my only rival and the five metre barrier is well within my capabilities,» the young woman from Volgograd said. «It's a pity, that I don't have more competition, a tougher rivalry would make me jump higher.»

Another very impressive young woman is the Swedish all-round talent Carolina Klüft. While Isinbayeva will probably soon fulfil her dream and become the first woman to vault five metres in competition, Klüft could be the first athlete to achieve 5000 points in the indoor pentathlon.

In Madrid Klüft's goal was to reach 5000 points and she started very well in the 60m hurdles (8.19) and the high jump

(1.93m), but in the shot put (13.29m) she lost points so was unable to break the World record, but she set a new Swedish best mark and after Olympic, World, World Indoor and European Golds, she has now won every major title possible.

After the competition Klüft gave an interview which was totally typical for her: «Before the 800m I still had World record chances but the first two laps were slow and that made it impossible. Anyway I'm extremely happy as I have set a new PB. I have now all the possible titles but that was never my primary goal, but having fun whenever I'm on the track.» Fun is the most important thing for her.

Anyway a few Swedish girls had a lot of fun in Madrid because Sweden doesn't have only Carolina Klüft. The twin sisters Susanna and Jenny Kallur won Gold and Silver in the 60m hurdles. Susanna ran 7.80 to take the title, a new World best mark for the year and a new Swedish record, her sister followed in 7.99. It was the second time Susanna and Jenny were number one and two at a championship: at the 2001 European Under 23 Championships they filled the first two places in

Medallists

WOMEN

60m

1. Kim Gevaert BEL	7.16
2. Yeoryia Koklóni GRE	7.18
3. María Karastamáti GRE	7.25

200m

1. Ivet Lalova BUL	22.91
2. Karin Mayr-Krifka AUT	22.94
3. Jacqueline Poelman NED	23.42

400m

1. Svetlana Pospelova RUS	50.41
2. Sviatlana Usovich BLR	50.55
3. Irina Rosikhina RUS	52.05

800m

1. Larisa Chzhao RUS	1:59.97
2. Maite Martinez ESP	2:00.52
3. Natalya Tsyganova RUS	2:01.62

1500m

1. Elena Iagar ROM	4:03.09
2. Corina Dumbravean ROM	4:05.88
3. Hind Dehiba FRA	4:07.20

3000m

1. Lidia Chojecka POL	8:43.76
2. Tezeta Desalegn-Dengersa TUR	8:46.65
3. Susanne Pumper AUT	8:47.74

60m Hurdles

1. Susanna Kallur SWE	7.80
2. Jenny Kallur SWE	7.99
3. Kirsten Bolm GER	8.00

High Jump

1. Anna Chicherova RUS	2.01
2. Ruth Beitia ESP	1.99
3. Venelina Veneva BUL	1.97

Pole Vault

1. Yelena Isinbayeva RUS	4.90
2. Anna Rogowska POL	4.75
3. Monica Pyrek POL	4.70

Long Jump

1. Naide Gomes POR	6.70
2. Stilianí Pilátou GRE	6.64
3. Adina Anton ROM	6.59
3. Bianca Kappler GER *	6.53

*Erroneous measurement on sixth attempt. Video evidence led Jury of Appeal to award shared third place.

Triple Jump

1. Viktoriya Gurova RUS	14.74
2. Magdelin Martinez ITA	14.54
3. Carlota Castrejana ESP	14.45



Yelena Isinbayeva

the 100m hurdles. That Susanna is always a little bit faster than her twin sister is not a big surprise, it was like this since they were born - Susanna is a few minutes older than Jenny.

There was an even younger winner in the 200m. Reigning European Junior Champion Ivet Lalova from Bulgaria won in a new national record (22.91) ahead of the favourite Karin Mayr-Krifka from Austria (22.94). The new indoor European Champion is only 20 years old. «I love Spain,» she shouted for joy after the race.

In the 400m Svetlana Pospelova ran 50.41 to take the title, a new World best mark. Remarkably in the final there were only athletes from the Eastern countries of Europe. There was also a World best mark for the Romanian Elena Iagar in the 1500m (4:03.09). The Russian high jumper Anna Chicherova was the only woman to clear 2.01m after a close battle for the title with Ruth Beitia from Spain, who cleared 1.99m and won Silver.

There was unprecedented confusion in the long jump competition when German Bianca Kappler's last jump was measured at 6.96m, a result which was not possible. «I never can jump that far,» Kappler said. «My normal level is about 6.60 to 6.70m and in athletics wonders never happen. I know how much I have to work to improve only ten centimetres.» Obviously there was some mistake, but from a technical point of view there was no error. The nations of the first three jumpers, Portugal, Greece and Romania, protested - and a jury had to decide the outcome.

First the Referee decided that Kappler's sixth attempt was void and had to be repeated. However, following a protest from the German team, the Jury of Appeal found a better solution. Because it could be proved from television pictures that the jump was amongst the medal places but it could not be proved exactly how far it was, Kappler would be awarded a Bronze medal. So finally heptathlete Naide Gomes from Portugal won (6.70m), second was Greek Stilianí Pilatou (6.64m) and Kappler and the Romanian Adina Anton took third place together. «During the competition Kappler's

last attempt seemed to me to be long but not long enough to reach 6.96m. I think the jury's decision is fair,» said Gomes.

In front of enthusiastic crowds in Madrid you could see in a lot of events a new generation - young, good looking, joyful, self-confident and very interesting. It was a good advertisement for athletics.

URSULA KAISER



Jenny and Susanna Kallur

Medal Table

RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	RUS	9	2	6	17
2	SWE	3	1	1	5
3	FRA	2	0	2	4
4	IRL	2	0	0	2
5	ESP	1	6	5	12
6	GBR	1	5	1	7
7	POL	1	3	2	6
8	UKR	1	2	2	5
9	ROM	1	2	1	4
10	BLR	1	1	0	2
11	GER	1	0	4	5
12	BUL	1	0	1	2
13	BEL	1	0	0	1
13	CZE	1	0	0	1
13	DEN	1	0	0	1
13	POR	1	0	0	1
17	GRE	0	2	1	3
18	AUT	0	1	2	3
19	NED	0	1	1	2

Shot Put

1. Nadzeya Astapchuk BLR	19.37
2. Krystyna Zabawska POL	18.96
3. Olga Ryabinkina RUS	18.83

Pentathlon

1. Carolina Klüft SWE	4948
2. Kelly Sotherton GBR	4733
3. Natalya Dobrynska RUS	4667

4x400m

1. Russia	3:28.00
2. Poland	3:29.37
3. Great Britain & NI	3:29.81

1 WORLD RECORD

Yelena Isinbayeva RUS, pole vault, 4.90m

5 CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS

Ivan Heshko UKR, 1500m, 3:36.70
 Stefan Holm SWE, high jump, 2.40m
 Igor Pavlov RUS, pole vault, 5.90m
 Carolina Klüft SWE, pentathlon, 4948 pts
 Russia, women's 4x400m, 3:28.00

STATISTICS

40,000 tickets sold

Over 500 members of the media working for 25 TV channels, 30 radio stations and 150 newspapers, magazines & web sites

520 volunteers, 88 officials, 85 LOC & EAA staff helped make the event a success



Sergiy Lebid



Lebid makes it five in a row

Highlights from the SPAR European Cross Country

Championships in Heringsdorf, Germany, on 12 December 2004.

362 athletes from 26 countries took part in the 11th edition of the SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Seebad Heringsdorf on the Baltic island of Usedom.

Ukrainian Sergiy Lebid went into the history books when he became the first athlete to record five victories in the senior men's race. Lebid has contested every championship since 1994 and was a runaway winner over the 9.6km hilly and testing course. He broke away with two of the seven laps to go, leaving behind Spain's Juan Carlos de la Ossa who took Silver and France's Driss Maazouzi who took Bronze.

«Each of my victories was special but this was the most important,» said Lebid who found time to wave to the crowd in the last 100 metres.

France won the team race ahead of Italy and Great Britain.

In the senior women's race Britain's Hayley Yelling put the disappointment of missing out on the Olympic 10,000m qualifying time by 0.14 seconds earlier in the year behind her to take the title with a sprint finish that surprised even her.

«Coming down the straight I was convinced I was going to be fourth, I thought that an athlete was going to come flying past so I just ran as hard as I could,» she said after the race.

With Yelling's team mate Jo Pavey taking the Bronze medal behind Polish steeple-chaser Justyna Bak, Great Britain were the Silver medalists in the team competition, behind Portugal and ahead of France.

The junior men's title went to Hungary's Barnabas Bene who was a surprise winner ahead of Russia's Yevgeny Rybakov, who was going for his third consecutive victory, and his twin brother Anatoliy. Russia took the team title ahead of Ireland and Great Britain.

The junior women's champion was Turkey's Binnaz Uslu who finished nine seconds clear of Romania's Ancuta Bobocel with Spain's Marta Romo in third. Bobocel lead her team to Gold ahead of Great Britain and Russia.

Hayley Yelling wins the senior women's race ahead of Justyna Bak and Jo Pavey





Aleksandr Ivanov



Kanter and Smith throw records in Mersin

175 athletes from a record 29 countries, including two Olympic Champions and a World record holder, competed in the fifth European Cup Winter Throwing in Mersin, Turkey, last month.

In the first event on day one, Estonian Gerd Kanter's opening throw of 66.05m improved his own Cup record for the men's discus by almost two metres and gave him his third consecutive victory in the competition.

Reigning Under 23 Champion Rutger Smith (Netherlands) finished third behind Kanter and came back the following day to set a Cup record of his own. His 21.00m was also a Dutch national record, his second in a week after setting a new indoor mark to win the Silver medal at the European Athletics Indoor Championships in Madrid.

The 2000 spectators who attended the Cup on Sunday were treated to a real

Highlights from the European Cup Winter Throwing in Mersin, Turkey, on 12-13 March 2005.

feast of hammer throwing. In the women's event Ivana Brkljacic of Croatia unleashed a 71.00m throw in the second round to win her first major senior competition, beating World record holder Mihaela Melinte (Romania) and Olympic Champion Olga Kuzenkova (Russia).

The twice World Junior (2000 and 2002) and European Junior Champion (2001) was delighted with her victory. She said: «This is the first time I have beaten Kuzenkova. She is my favourite and I respect her very much. I have been waiting to throw over 70 metres for a long time.»

In the men's hammer, Olympic Silver medalist and reigning World Champion Ivan Tikhon produced a massive throw of

80.79m in the fourth round to win by over two and a half metres.

Reigning Olympic Champion Natalya Sadova (Russia) produced a final round effort of 61.74m to win the women's discus by a metre from 2001 World Silver medalist Nicoleta Grasu of Romania.

Russian Aleksandr Ivanov and German Steffi Nerius took the javelin titles, while Russian Olga Ryabinkina was the only athlete to putt over 18 metres in the women's shot.

The team title was won by Russia for the fifth consecutive year ahead of Germany and Italy.

RESULTS

MEN

Shot

1. Rutger Smith NED	21.00
2. Gheorghe Guset ROM	20.75
3. Manuel Martinez ESP	20.22

Discus

1. Gerd Kanter EST	66.05
2. Gabor Mate HUN	64.17
3. Rutger Smith NED	62.80

Hammer

1. Ivan Tikhon BLR	80.79
2. Aleksey Zagorniy RUS	78.11
3. Ilya Konovalov RUS	77.35

Javelin

1. Aleksandr Ivanov RUS	81.13
2. Igor Sukhomlinov RUS	80.02
3. Manuel Nau GER	76.76

WOMEN

Shot

1. Olga Ryabinkina RUS	18.41
2. Assunta Legnante ITA	17.98
3. Kristin Marten GER	17.68

Discus

1. Natalya Sadova RUS	61.74
2. Nicoleta Grasu ROM	60.75
3. Jana Tucholke GER	57.84

Hammer

1. Ivana Brkljacic CRO	71.00
2. Mihaela Melinte ROM	70.40
3. Olga Kuzenkova RUS	70.11

Javelin

1. Steffi Nerius GER	61.01
2. Lada Chernova RUS	60.05
3. Mariya Abakumova RUS	59.06



Discus podium:
Rutger Smith,
Gerd Kanter
and Gabor Mate

EAA Council agrees position on second European Athletics Championships

Report from the EAA Council meeting in Madrid on 7 March.

In a busy one day meeting in Madrid on 7 March, the EAA Council agreed to support efforts to add a second European Athletics Championships to the four year cycle of EAA events, but only if certain conditions can be met.

Following the report on an extensive investigation by EAA President Hansjörg Wirz, the Council concluded that the additional Championships would be desirable if the international competition calendar, including major championships, could be restructured in a way that no part of athletics lost revenue due to the changes and if agreement on the changes could be reached with the IAAF and all involved parties.

The Council also found that the risks associated with staging the Championships in Olympic year are so great that a proposal to do so would not be in the best interests of European Athletics.

The Council will forward its report to the EAA Congress, which takes place on 16 April in Ljubljana, Slovenia, together with the recommendation that the EAA open discussions with various interested parties.

«It is a pragmatic and sensible approach,» said Wirz. «Council recognises the potential value of another Championships, but our sport must be united on this issue and I am sure a lot of talking will have to take place before all our partners will see this change as good for them.»

INCREASED SUBVENTIONS

After receiving an upbeat financial report in one of the first items on the agenda, the Council followed Treasurer Karel Pilný's recommendation and agreed to pay nearly one million Swiss Francs in preparation subventions to EAA Member Federations.

The total subvention figure of 913,000 CHF includes a new administrative assistance grant of 1000 CHF per federation and represents an increase of 49% on the 615,000 CHF paid by the EAA in 2004.

DOPING CONTROL DELEGATES

With the aim of stepping up the EAA's fight against doping, the Council decided to assign Doping Control Delegates to six additional European Cup events. Previously, doping control activities at the European Cup First and Second League, European Cup Combined Events, European Cup Winter Throwing, European Cup



The Ullevi Stadium in Gothenburg, venue for the 2006 European Athletics Championships

Race Walking and the European Mountain Running Championships were overseen by the EAA's Technical Delegate.

According to Wirz: «The creation of the new position at these events will help to ensure the doping control procedures are carried out as effectively as possible and allow the Technical Delegates to focus all their attention on the competition.»

SEMINAR PLANNING

Following consultations with a cross section of Member Federation leaders over recent months, the Council decided to stage the next edition of one of the main elements of the EAA's education programme, the popular CEO Seminar, in the spring, probably April, of 2006 rather than in its traditional autumn slot.

CONGRESS PREPARATIONS

The Council examined a list of reports, proposals, applications and motions to be put to the forthcoming European Athletics Congress in Ljubljana. Extensive time was devoted to the first reading of a new draft constitution for the EAA.

The Council also used the occasion to prepare for the IAAF Congress to be held in Helsinki in August. The proposals it agreed to submit include a change to the IAAF Competition Regulations that would see the jumping order re-arranged prior to the last round in the horizontal jumps and an amendment to Article 9 of the IAAF Constitution, which is aimed at clarifying the roles and the sharing of responsibilities between the IAAF and the Area Associations.

The next meeting of the Council will take place in Ljubljana just before the European Athletics Congress. Among the items expected to be on the agenda will be the allocation of three EAA events in 2006 (European Athletics Indoor Cup, European Cup Winter Throwing, European Cup 10,000m) and two events in 2007 (European Athletics Junior Championships, European Athletics Under 23 Championships).



Ken Britland, Rob Wilson, Hansjörg Wirz and Susan Boobyer

Special Awards in Madrid

Using the occasion of the 28th European Athletics Indoor Championships in Madrid, EAA President Hansjörg Wirz presented two special awards to long time supporters of European Athletics.

At a dinner hosted by the EAA on 3 March, Wirz congratulated José Maria Odriozola, the President of the Real Federación Española de Atletismo, for his long and successful tenure of leadership of Spanish athletics. Handing over the award, Wirz thanked Odriozola for his federation's many contributions to the sport, including the staging of many EAA events over the years.

The following day, at a lunch also hosted by the EAA, Wirz gave an award to recognise and thank EAA technical partner SEIKO for its long commercial relationship with European Athletics. Now in the 14th year of its partnership with the EAA (with a contract that runs through to 2007), SEIKO was represented by Director of Marketing Rob Wilson, Susan Boobyer and Ken Britland.



Hansjörg Wirz and José Maria Odriozola



European Athletics Congress Ljubljana 2005

The 19th European Athletics Congress will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Saturday 16 April. The Congress will be held at the Grand Hotel Union, a high quality business hotel with excellent conference facilities in the centre of the city.

The Slovenian Athletic Federation has hosted a number of successful EAA events in recent years: a Council Meeting in Bled in 1994, the 1997 European Athletics Junior Championships in Ljubljana, the 1999 SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Velenje and the 2001 European Mountain Running

Trophy in Cerklje. The 2005 Congress is the first event organised by the Federation since Slovenia joined the European Union.

Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, is at the heart of the country's political, economic, cultural, scientific and sporting life and enjoys a unique location between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. Congress delegates will have the opportunity to visit some of the sites in and around the city, with sightseeing tours organised to Lake Bled and Lake Bohinj, part of the Triglav National Park.



Programme

Friday 15 April

10.00 – 13.00	EAA Executive Committee Meeting
15.00 – 18.00	EAA Council Meeting
20.30	EAA Dinner

Saturday 16 April

08.30 - 12.30	European Athletics Congress
13.00	EAA Press Conference
13.30	Lunch
14.30 – 18.00	Sightseeing tour
20.30	LOC Dinner

Sunday 17 April

09.00 – 13.00	Council Meeting
13.30	EAA Council Lunch

Agenda

1. Opening of the Congress
2. EAA Awards
3. Roll Call and Announcement of votes present and voting strength
4. Appointment of scrutineers
5. Approval of the Congress Agenda
6. Approval of the Minutes of the 18th Congress in Athens/GRE 2003
7. President's Address
8. Report of the Council
9. Financial Matters
 - 9.1 Financial Reports by the Treasurer and the Auditor
 - 9.2 Approval of the Reports and Accounts for 2003 and 2004
 - 9.3 Approval of the Financial Planning
 - 9.4 Appointment of an authorised auditing firm for the two following accounting periods (2005-06)
10. Reports of Committees
11. Proposals of the EAA Council and EAA Member Federations
 - 11.1 Sequence of European Championships
 - 11.2 Competition Programme European Indoor Championships
12. New EAA Constitution – Further procedure
13. Dates and Venues of the next
 - 13.1 EAA Congress 2007
 - 13.2 European Calendar Conferences 2006 & 2007
14. Miscellaneous
15. Closing of the Congress by the President

SPAR European Cup

The 2005 SPAR European Cup will take place on 17-19 June in Florence, Italy, at the Luigi Ridolfi Stadium which was inaugurated when the same event took place there in 2003.



Friday 17 June

20:25	Hammer	Men
20:30	100m B (2 heats)	Women
20:30	High Jump	Men
20:40	1000m Junior	Women
20:50	1000m Junior	Men
21:00	5000m	Women
21:00	Long Jump	Women
21:20	5000m	Men
21:35	Discus	Women
21:45	3000m Steeplechase	Women
22:05	3000m Steeplechase	Men
22:20	100m B (2 heats)	Men

Saturday 18 June

15:30	400m Hurdles	Women
15:30	Triple Jump	Women
15:30	Pole Vault	Women
15:35	Discus	Men
15:40	400m Hurdles	Men
15:55	100m	Women
16:05	100m	Men
16:10	Shot Put	Men
16:15	800m	Women
16:25	1500m	Men
16:35	400m	Women
16:40	Long Jump	Men
16:40	Javelin	Women
16:45	400m	Men
16:55	3000m	Women
17:15	4x100m	Women
17:25	4x100m	Men

Sunday 19 June

15:30	Pole Vault	Men
15:35	Hammer	Women
15:40	110m Hurdles	Men
15:45	High Jump	Women
15:50	100m Hurdles	Women
16:05	800m	Men
16:10	Shot Put	Women
16:15	1500m	Women
16:15	Triple Jump	Men
16:30	200m	Women
16:40	200m	Men
16:40	Javelin	Men
16:50	3000m	Men
17:15	4x400m	Women
17:25	4x400m	Men

TIMETABLE

The 2005 SPAR European Cup is a two day competition with an extended programme on the evening of Friday 17 June. The timetable will allow athletes to compete in the late afternoon/evening in less warm conditions and mean shorter sessions that are better suited to television broadcasting requirements, enabling the EAA to secure maximum coverage of the event.

QUALIFIED TEAMS

Men	Women
Czech Republic (+)	France
France	Germany
Germany	Greece
Great Britain & NI	Italy (+)
Italy	Poland
Poland	Romania (+)
Russia	Russia
Spain (+)	Ukraine
(+) promoted / (-) relegated	

ACCOMMODATION

Any individuals that require accommodation during the SPAR European Cup should contact:
AMANDA SRL
 Piazza Goldoni 2
 50123 Firenze, Italy
 Tel: +39 055 292851
 Fax: +39 055 2381618
 Email: firenze2005@amandatour.com

TICKETS

Tickets are available online at www.boxol.it and www.firenze2005.it or by contacting:
 Box Office
 Via Alamanni 39
 50123 Firenze, Italy
 Tel: +39 055 210804
 Email: toscana@boxol.it

Finish line seating:

€ 27 per day / € 60 for three days (until 30 May it is only possible to buy three day packages)

Non numbered seating:

€ 12 per day / € 25 for three days

FIDAL members:

€ 3 per day / € 7 for three days (not for sale online)

Students-Military:

€ 3 per day / € 7 for three days (not for sale online)

For more information about the SPAR European Cup please contact the LOC Media Service at:
FIDAL
 Ufficco Stampa
 Via Flaminia Nuova 830
 00191 Roma, Italy
 Tel: + 39 06 36856173
 Fax: +39 06 36856280
 Email: stampa@fidal.it



EAA Events 2005

European Cup Race Walking

The 6th European Cup Race Walking takes place in Miskolc, Hungary, on Saturday 21 May. Teams from 28 countries are expected to compete in the races around the historic centre of the city.

Timetable

8.00	Men's 50km
9.00	Junior Men's 10km
10.00	Junior Women's 10km
13.30	Women's 20km
3.30	Men's 20km

www.racewalking.hu

Race Walking Judges Course

The EAA will stage a course for high level Race Walking Judges in conjunction with the European Cup in Miskolc.

The aim of the course, which will utilise the IAAF Level II syllabus, is to refresh and update the knowledge of current members of the European Race Walking Judges Panel as well identify potential new candidates for the Panel. The course will also identify candidates for consideration for the International Panel.

EAA Member Federations have been invited to send up to three Race Walking Judges to attend the course, including one participant not already holding the IAAF Level II qualification. The course will be led by Peter Marlow (GBR) and Lamberto Vacchi (ITA) and will include practical assessment during the European Cup competition as well as written and oral examinations.

European Mountain Running Championships

The 4th European Mountain Running Championships take place in Heiligenblut, Austria, on Sunday 10 July. The annual Grossglockner Berglauf, a real festival of mountain running, will take place the same weekend.

The athletes will start in Heiligenblut and run uphill only, ascending the Grossglockner, the highest mountain in Austria, and finishing at the Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe, 2370m above sea level. The men will compete over 13km with an ascent of 1520m and the women over 10km with an ascent of 1335m.

European Athletics Under 23 Championships

The 5th European Athletics Under 23 Championships take place in the Steigerwaldstadion in Erfurt, Germany, on 14-17 July.

The Steigerwaldstadion was officially opened in 1931 and has hosted the German Championships twice in recent years, but this is the first time an international championships will be held in Erfurt. The track in the stadium is being relaid for the championships and there is now also an adjacent indoor arena. The stadium has capacity for 20,000 spectators including 4000 covered seats along the home straight. Tickets costs just 4 Euros per day or 12 Euros for a four day ticket and are available online on the event website.

Known as the «Green Heart of Germany», Erfurt is a city of 200,000 inhabitants and dates back to medieval times. The majority of teams, media and VIPS will be accommodated in hotels in the city centre, about 2km from the competition venue.

The first European Athletics Under 23 Championships took place in Turku, Finland in 1997 and they are an important opportunity for athletes who have recently left Junior ranks to compete against athletes in their own age group.

www.erfurt2005.org



Steigerwaldstadion

European Athletics Junior Championships

The 18th European Athletics Junior Championships take place in Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania, on 21-24 July. The Championships will be the biggest international sporting event staged in Lithuania since it gained independence.

The stadium S. Darius ir S. Girenas where the Championships will take place has a capacity of 14,500 spectators and has been renovated for the event. The stadium hosted European Cup Second League fixtures in 1998 and 2000 and European Cup Combined Events Second League in 2001. One World record has been broken in the stadium, the 20km track walk by Kristina Saltanovic in 2000 (1:35:23.7).

The EAA and the LOC are working together to resolve some issues surrounding accommodation as a result of the construction of a new high quality hotel not being completed in time for the Championships.

www.kaunas2005.lt

European Cups & European Cups Combined Events

Due to two recently confirmed doping cases regarding Belarus and Turkey in the European Cups and European Cups Combined Events 2004, the groupings for 2005 have been changed.

The Belarus men's team has been relegated to the European Cup Second League Group B in Izmir instead of the Croatian team (now First League Group A in Gävle).

The Austrian women's team has been promoted to the European Cup Combined Events First League in Jyväskylä instead of Turkey who will compete in the Second League in Maribor.

European Cup

First League Group A, Gävle (SWE), 18-19 June

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
Croatia	Croatia (+)
Estonia (+)	Czech Republic
Finland	Finland
Hungary	Hungary
Slovak Republic (+)	Norway (+)
Slovenia	Slovenia
Sweden (-)	Spain (-)
Switzerland	Sweden

First League Group B, Leiria (POR), 18-19 June

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
Belgium	Belarus
Greece	Belgium
Ireland (+)	Bulgaria
Netherlands (-)	Great Britain (-)
Portugal	Ireland (+)
Romania	Netherlands
Serbia & Montenegro (+)	Portugal
Ukraine	Serbia & Montenegro (+)

Second League Group A, Tallinn (EST), 18-19 June

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
Austria (-)	Austria
Denmark	Denmark
Iceland	Estonia (-)
Israel	Iceland
Latvia	Israel
Lithuania	Latvia (-)
Luxembourg	Lithuania
Norway (-)	Slovak Republic

Second League Group B, Izmir (TUR), 18-19 June

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
AASSE *	AASSE *
Albania	Albania
Andorra	Andorra
Armenia	Armenia
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Belarus (-)	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Cyprus
Bulgaria (-)	Georgia
Cyprus	Macedonia
Georgia	Moldova
Macedonia	Switzerland (-)
Moldova	Turkey (-)
Turkey	

* AASSE = Athletic Association of the Small States of Europe

European Cup Combined Events

Super League, Bydgoszcz (POL), 2-3 July

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
Austria (+)	Belarus
Estonia	Finland (+)
France	Germany
Germany	Great Britain
Italy	Netherlands
Poland	Poland
Russia	Russia
Spain (+)	Ukraine (+)

First League, Jyväskylä (FIN), 2-3 July

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
Czech Republic	Austria (+)
Finland (-)	Czech Republic (-)
Great Britain	Estonia
Hungary (+)	France
Latvia (+)	Greece (-)
Netherlands	Italy
Switzerland	Lithuania (+)
Ukraine (-)	Sweden

Second League, Maribor (SLO), 2-3 July

Qualified teams MEN	Qualified teams WOMEN
Belarus	Denmark
Belgium	Hungary
Denmark	Latvia
Greece (-)	Portugal
Ireland	Slovenia
Lithuania	Spain (-)
Norway	Switzerland (-)
Slovenia (-)	Turkey
Sweden	

Participating individuals

Participating individuals	Participating individuals
Croatia	Belgium
Cyprus	Croatia
Iceland	Iceland
Macedonia	Ireland
Moldova	Israel
Portugal	Macedonia
Romania	Norway
Serbia & Montenegro	Romania
Slovak Republic	Serbia & Montenegro
	Slovak Republic

(+) promoted / (-) relegated

European Athletics Yearbook 04-05

The European Athletics Yearbook 04-05 is now available and can be purchased by downloading an order form from www.european-athletics.org.

The Yearbook contains calendar and directory information, reports and results from EAA events in 2004 as well as articles on the winners of the Waterford Crystal European Athlete of the Year Trophy 2004.

The comprehensive statistics section includes 2004 European ranking lists for Seniors, Under 23s and Juniors and European all-time lists for Seniors. Also listed are European indoor and outdoor records for the three age groups, championships records and national records set in 2004.



European Indoor Handbook

The European Indoor Handbook is a comprehensive statistics manual in English and Spanish produced by the Royal Spanish Athletics Federation and Madrid 2005 Organising Committee.

The Handbook includes the history of the European Athletics Indoor Championships, full results, the progression of championship best performances and athlete biography information.

It is priced at € 10 (plus € 6 postage for Spain or € 12 postage for overseas) and can be obtained from RFEA

Publications, Avenida de Valladolid 81-1º, 28008 Madrid, Spain, or by email at: publicaciones@rfea.es.

EAA Development Grants Awarded for 2005

EAA President Hansjörg Wirz has announced the award of grants totaling more than 135,000 Swiss Francs to eight Member Federations for development projects to be carried out in 2005.

«The range of projects we have approved for this year is the most varied of all the Development Support Programme's four years,» said Wirz. «The list includes seminars for coaches and teachers, training camps, athlete service programmes, technical official training and a survey of the attractiveness of the sport. I hope that many of this year's projects turn out to be models that other federations will be interested in and want to copy or adapt for their own use.»

In addition to the quality of the projects, Janez Aljančič, Chairman of the EAA Development Committee, which is responsible for the operation of the Development Support Programme, is happy with administrative improvements to the programme.

«We have been able to speed up the approval process over the last couple of years and we are now getting the project contracts sent out earlier in the year, which should help the project organisers,» he said.

«Support from the programme is meant to help federations cover part of their costs for special initiatives,» explains Aljančič. «Our experience has been that even a little financial assistance from the EAA gives a kind of official international recognition and approval that helps the project organisers attract other funding and support locally.»

Pointing out that it was necessary for project organisers to study the programme guidelines carefully before submitting an application, Aljančič said: «There are certain types of projects that we cannot normally support. These include subsidies for competitions or projects deemed to be the normal day to day work of a federation.»

Grants were made to eight Development Support Programme projects in 2004, 12 in 2003 and six in 2002, the first year of the programme.

Federations considering grant applications for 2006 should note that information on the application procedure will be published on the EAA website in May and that the application deadline for grants is 31 August 2005.

EAA Staff Update

Director General

The EAA is currently conducting a Europe wide search for the right individual to fill its newly created post of Director General.

The Director General will be the EAA's senior staff member and his/her responsibilities will include leading the EAA's operational activities, promoting the EAA and European Athletics and fostering good relationships with EAA Member Federations, the IAAF and the sport's other partners. He/she will be based at the EAA's headquarters in Lausanne.

Superseding the position of General Secretary, currently held by Till Lufft who reaches retirement age this year, the new position was created by the EAA Council in light of the centralisation of the Association's operations in Lausanne, new organisational structure and increased staff size. In the EAA's view, the title 'Director General' and the newly elaborated job description better reflect the capabilities and skills demanded of the operational head of a modern international sports organisation.



Communication Manager
Emily Lewis

Emily joined the EAA at the beginning of February as Communication Manager. Emily is British and was previously working at UK Athletics as media officer where her role included working as press attaché with the GB Team at major championships. She can speak French, German and some Russian as well as English and has a knowledge of Spanish and Dutch. Emily's responsibilities include working on media services for events, ensuring that there is regular communication about the EAA's events and activities through media releases and the EAA web site and producing EAA Update.



European Indoor Rankings Leaders 2005

Men			Women		
60m	6.45 ER	Ronald Pognon FRA	60m	7.10	Christine Arron FRA
200m	20.53 NR	Tobias Unger GER	200m	22.69	Christine Arron FRA
400m	45.93 NR	David Canal ESP	400m	50.41	Svetlana Pospelova RUS
800m	1:46.10	Yuriy Borzakovskiy RUS	800m	1:57.53	Larisa Chzhao RUS
1500m	3:33.99 NR	Ivan Heshko UKR	1500m	4:03.09	Elena Iagar ROM
Mile	4:00.06	James Thie GBR	Mile	4:28.75	Yelena Kanales RUS
3000m	7:39.89	Alistair Cragg IRL	3000m	8:41.43	Jo Pavey GBR
5000m	13:52.33	Henrik Ahnström SWE	5000m	15:50.20	Ida Nilsson SWE
60m hurdles	7.43 NR	Ladji Doucouré FRA	60m hurdles	7.80 NR	Susanna Kallur SWE
High jump	2.40	Stefan Holm SWE	High jump	2.01	Anna Chicherova RUS
Pole vault	5.90	Igor Pavlov RUS	Pole vault	4.90 WR	Yelena Isinbayeva RUS
Long jump	8.37	Joan Lino Martínez ESP	Long jump	6.84	Carolina Klüft SWE
Triple jump	17.30	Phillips Idowu GBR	Triple jump	14.74	Viktoriya Gurova RUS
Shot	21.19	Joachim Olsen DEN	Shot	19.37	Nadzeya Astapchuk BLR
Heptathlon	6232	Roman Šebrle CZE	Pentathlon	4948 NR	Carolina Klüft SWE
5000m walk	18:45.83	Ilya Markov RUS	3000m walk	12:04.86	Sabine Zimmer GER

European Indoor Records set in 2005

Women							
Pole Vault	4.87	*/+	Yelena	ISINBAYEVA	RUS	Donetsk	12.02.05
Pole Vault	4.88	*/+	Yelena	ISINBAYEVA	RUS	Birmingham	18.02.05
Pole Vault	4.89	*/+	Yelena	ISINBAYEVA	RUS	Liévin	26.02.05
Pole Vault	4.90	*/+	Yelena	ISINBAYEVA	RUS	Madrid	06.03.05
Men							
60m	6.45	+	Roland	POGNON	FRA	Karlsruhe	13.02.05

*also World Record + awaiting ratification

EAA Outdoor Permit Meetings 2005

Date	Name of Meeting	City	Country
27.05	7th Int. LA-Meeting «Anhalt 2004»	Dessau	GER
27.05	Riga 2005	Riga	LAT
28.05	Olympic Champion Prizes	Yalta	UKR
28-29.05	EAA International CE Meeting	Maribor	SLO
30.05	Papaflessia	Kalamata	GRE
04.06	60th Cezmi Or Memorial	Istanbul	TUR
05.06	16. Int. Lausitzer Meeting Cottbus	Cottbus	GER
05.06	V European Athletics Festival	Bydgoszcz	POL
06.06	57th Venizelia	Chania	GRE
11.06	41st Gustav Sule Memorial	Tartu	EST
12.06	51st Januzs Kusocinski Memorial	Warsaw	POL
14.06	Spitzen Leichtathletik Luzern	Luzern	SUI
22.06	Gran Premio «Gobierno de Aragón»	Zaragoza	ESP
23.06	Meeting Miners Feast Velenje 2005	Velenje	SLO
24.06	North Down International Games	Bangor	GBR
26.06	12th International Meeting of Madeira	Funchal	POR
02.07	54th Bupa Ireland Cork City Games	Cork	IRL
03.07	Meeting Città die Padova	Padova	ITA
03.07	Savo Games	Lapinlahti	FIN
03.07	Debrecen International Meeting	Debrecen	HUN
06.07	33rd Gran Premio Diputacion de Salamanca	Salamanca	ESP
10.07	21st Vardinoyiannia	Rethymno	GRE
21.07	Evli Karelia Games	Lappeenranta	FIN
24.07	Internationale Atletiek@Vlaanderen	Brasschaat	BEL
16.08	EAA Int. Athletics Meeting «Tallinn» 2005	Tallinn	EST
28.08	Athletic Bridge 2005 - Banska Bystrica	Banska Bystrica	SVK
29.08	Athletic Bridge 2005 - Dubnica	Dubnica nad Vahom	SVK
31.08	41st Palio Città Della Quercia	Rovereto	ITA
02.09	Amsterdam Athletics	Amsterdam	NED



IMPRESSUM

**European Athletic Association
Association Européenne
d'Athlétisme**

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«I wanted to pass on my experiences»

Interview: Double Olympic Champion Kelly Holmes (GBR)

Britain's Kelly Holmes finally fulfilled all the promise she had shown since winning her first major championship medals in 1994 when she became Olympic Champion in both the 800m and 1500m in Athens last year. Since then Kelly has become a big star in the UK, been made a Dame in the Queen's New Year Honours list and has won numerous awards including the Waterford Crystal European Athlete of the Year Trophy. However, she has found time in her busy schedule to help the next generation of middle distance athletes and has plenty of plans for the future.

Looking back now, what are the particular memories that you have from the Olympic Games?

The feeling I had when I won the 800m was amazing. I fulfilled my Olympic dream and beat such a great field, it was a feeling of shock more than anything. I remember all the GB supporters with their flags, Team Leader Max Jones saying to me after the 800m 'you've now become one of the all-time greats, if you win two Golds you'll become a legend', and the Alicia Keys song 'If I Ain't Got You' I listened to throughout the Games.

Life has been fantastic for you since the Olympics, making many celebrity appearances and winning numerous awards. Are there any that particularly stand out?

The biggest one for me was the parade in my home town of Tonbridge the week after the Games when 80,000 people turned out. Meeting Tom Cruise, Elton

John, Olivia Newton John and other big world stars has been amazing. I think I have won 22 awards including the European Athlete of the Year Trophy and BBC Sports Personality of the Year which are important to me as they are decided by public vote. And of course being made a Dame and receiving the award from the Queen at Buckingham Place was very special.

In October/November you invited a group of young female middle distance athletes to train with you in South Africa. Tell us about that, where did the idea come from?

I came up with the idea for 'On Camp with Kelly' in January 2004. I felt that there were potentially a lot of great junior middle distance athletes in the UK and I wanted to get behind them and bring on the future. Norwich Union agreed to sponsor the camp and I held a selection day in July when I chose eight athletes to come to South Africa and train with me. I wanted to pass on my experiences, good and bad, of what it takes to be the best. I also involved other experienced international athletes such as Agnes Samaria of Namibia and Hezekiel Sepeng from South Africa and invited some young South African athletes to join the camp. We covered lots of different topics such as focus, motivation, race preparation, things to help make their pathway smoother.

Do you have plans to do similar things in the future?

I am hoping to arrange a weekend get-together, probably also involving my coach Margo Jennings, in the UK in April for the girls that came to South Africa and their coaches, plus some other Junior athletes, including some guys as well. I have kept in touch with the girls so I know how they are progressing. Then I plan to take three selected girls and their coaches to South Africa in May. And depending on sponsorship and my schedule I would like to do a camp for some British male junior athletes at the end of the year. And possibly set up something more formal in the future, like some sort of foundation or scholarship scheme.



Kelly with the young GB and South African athletes at 'On Camp with Kelly'

I also want to do some work in the townships in South Africa to help develop athletics, getting families involved and bringing in a sports doctor to do some work on sports medicine. I'd also like to set up schools challenges in the townships as I have done in my home town in the UK.

How disappointed were you to have to withdraw from the European Athletics Indoor Championships?

I was very disappointed to have to pull out through injury as I had decided two days before hurting my hamstring that I would definitely compete in Madrid. But I didn't want to risk anything for the outdoor season.

And finally do you have any competitions planned yet for the summer season?

Yes, my first competition will be the Norwich Union International in Glasgow on 5 June and I will also compete in the UK Trials and the Norwich Union London Grand Prix before the World Championships in Helsinki. Currently my aim is to compete at the World Championships and I know that UK Athletics will be looking to get out a strong women's team for the European Cup First League in Portugal so that we can regain our place in the SPAR European Cup.



Kelly leading a session on race preparation