



ATFS BULLETIN

Association of Track and Field Statisticians
3/2020

August 2020

Quadrennial Elections Edition

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear All,

I hope you have all been safe and well during this worldwide pandemic. Sadly it has had a devastating effect on lives and most aspects of human activity throughout the world, which includes our beloved sport of athletics. Whilst there has been some activity - mostly in Europe - so far there have been no major games and championships such as the Olympic Games and World Junior Championships.

By now, hopefully most of you have received *Athletics 2020*, and I would like to thank our treasurer **Tom Casacky** for all the work he put in to make the publication happen. I would also like to thank **Chris Turner** and **Nicole Jeffrey** at *World Athletics* and **Prince Nawaf Bin Mohammed Al Saud**, a vice-president of World Athletics.

I would also like to thank **Stuart Mazdon** for enabling access to the publication via Lulu. I would also like to give a big "Thank You" to **Peter Matthews**, who has been the book's editor since 1985. He has dedicated the 2020 edition to the memory of ATFS founder **Roberto Quercetani**, who passed away last year.

I would also like to thank our secretary **Michael McLaughlin** and the Executive for their support.

There were insufficient nominations to necessitate an election for the key positions of the ATFS, and below you will find the new leadership group for the next four years.

Please note that our secretary, Michael McLaughlin, has made a lot of updates on the website. Updated past world ranking lists by Pino Mappa and Richard Hymans are available there. Please check the site and let us know what else you would like to see.

Work also continues on the 1900-1910 project, headed by Tomas Magnusson.

The new Executive once declared will examine the future direction of the Association. We are faced with aging and declining membership, and I will be inviting member input on our future.

Stay safe and best wishes,

Paul

Paul Jenes
President ATFS

A.T.F.S. Website

Have you checked out the A.T.F.S. website recently ?

The website has recently been relaunched with a more streamlined design using the latest website applications, which includes a more simplified security arrangement for members to access the protected content and with this relaunch, new content has been added and updated. *As with all websites, it is always a work in progress.*

If any member has information, ranking lists, historical research, etc., that they would like share with members and have included on the members-only area of the website, please don't hesitate in sending the content to the Secretary for inclusion.

Comments on and suggestions for the website are always welcome.

QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS

Following the closing of the extended period for nominations for the ATFS Executive for the period 2020-2024, the following nominations were received.

President. Paul JENES (AUS)

Vice President. Andrew PIRIE (AUS)

Treasurer. Tom CASACKY (USA)

Secretary. Michael J. McLAUGHLIN (AUS/USA)

Executive Committee.

Jose Maria LOMBARDO (URG)

Giuseppe MAPPA (ITA)

Mark WALL (AUS/ENG)

Accordingly, the above have been declared elected.

The Executive, in accordance with the ATFS Constitution, will be contacting financial members to fill the remaining positions on the Executive Committee.

We would like to extend a sincere thanks to those members who served on the Executive in the previous four years and wish them good health and safety in the years going forward.

Michael J. McLaughlin

Secretary, ATFS.

ATHLETICS2020

To all ATFS Members,

A printed copy of *Athletics 2020* has been mailed to all ATFS members who were current in their subscriptions as at 15th June. The mailing took place from Monaco after 15 June. Because of Covid-19 restrictions and other factors, the book may have taken longer than usual to arrive. If your postal address is up-to-date and your local delivery service is at least somewhat reliable, your book should arrive in due course. Please be patient.

If your subscription was not up to date at the 15th June, then to obtain a copy you will need to purchase the book from [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com).

The printing and mailing of these books for ATFS Members occurred thanks to the generous assistance of *World Athletics/World Athletics Heritage*, **Chris Turner** and **Nicole Jeffery**.

As before, the electronic PDF version of *Athletics 2020* is available from me, upon request, to all current subscribers..

Best wishes,

Tom Casacky
Treasurer.

Unfinancial Members

As at 1st June 2020 the following members have not forwarded their financial membership for 2020 to Treasurer Tom Casacky.

Acic, Alter, Baguzzi, Sanchez Barrios, Birgan, Biscayart, Blackburn, Brickner, Arons Carvalho, Cherry, Crouch, Donley, Falkmo, Fanin, Feuer, Follprecht, Fontana, Hedman, Heilrath, Ionescu, Johnson, Karlsson, Kharkar, Konstas, Kriezis, Krishnan, Leconte, Leite, Lindop, Lovesey, Lund, Lynch-Staunton, McEwan, McMicken, Melkersson, Mirzoev, Mulkeen, O'Neal, Pfeifer, Rossi, Sandvig, Saylor, Schreiber, Sigmon, Solaas, Stagis, Takaha, Tarbotton, Tkacov, Vychlo

MEMORIES

By: Stan GREENBERG

Stan continues the series on his memories of his decades long love of track and field

Chapter 2

I spent the first few years of my interest in the sport waiting to see a clocking of 9.6sec for the 100 yards(91.44m) race.

In the late 1940s that was a rare occasion, but as a club level sprinter myself, it represented a standard that I could only dream about. In training with the then higher class 9.9sec Belgrave Harriers runners, I could hold my own for about half the distance, but then they would quickly draw away. Come forward some 70 years, and perhaps you can imagine my feelings when I witnessed the fabulous Jamaican Usain Bolt winning the World 100m championship at Berlin on 16th August 2009. Exactly a year to the day after his previous record of 9.69sec, when winning the Olympic title, he led from start to finish in a time announced as 9.58sec .(It was actually 9.572sec and the wind was +0.9). To me it was, and still is, phenomenal. I am told by nearby friends that when I saw the time I looked up to the heavens and said “ You can take me now”. I’m not sure that was true but it was an indication of how the performance registered in my mind. As a matter of interest and comparison he was timed at the 100 yard point in 8.87sec.

One of the biggest surprises of my athletics “career” came on Thursday, 28 August 1986, at 9.20 in the morning at the European Championships at Stuttgart, Germany.

It was the qualifying round of the women’s javelin, and the competitor’s aim was to get over 62.00m to make the final. On her first attempt Britain’s Fatima Whitbread unleashed a truly fantastic throw which landed over 2 metres past the standing world record mark of the GDR’s Petra Felke. To the consternation of what was still a small crowd – and only included a very few British journalists – Fatima had thrown a magnificent 77.44m. Happily my BBC colleagues had got to the stadium early and Ron Pickering was able to broadcast it as it happened. In the final next day Whitbread was slightly troubled by a sore shoulder, but, despite a couple of poor early throws, she took the lead with her fourth effort, and then her final throw soared out to the second best distance ever achieved of 76.20m. In silver and bronze positions were the two previous world record holders, Felke and Finland’s Tiina Lillak.

Probably the most pleasant performance I have seen in watching athletics for over 70 years, occurred on Friday, 3rd August 2012.

Starting her bid for the Olympic heptathlon in the new Olympic stadium in London, Britain’s Jessica Ennis ran in her first event, the 100m hurdles. She had a personal best of 12.79 from the previous year, and had run 12.81 for the race in May, so enthusiasts like me were hoping for, indeed expecting, something in the low 12.70 region. Off like the proverbial rocket she stopped the clock at a, to me, remarkable 12.54, smashing her pb, breaking the British 100m hurdles record, and achieving the fastest time ever in an heptathlon contest. It set her up for the gold medal and a British record 6955 points.

I have been privileged to have been present and witnessed 360 official world records, and you might be intrigued at what was the first I saw.

It was for the women’s 3 x 880 yards relay, and occurred at the old White City stadium in London on

6 August 1949. The occasion was during the London versus Gothenburg meeting, at which Ron Pavitt set a new English Native high jump record of 6ft 6" (1.98m). Added to the meeting were various inter-club relays, one of which was the above mentioned relay. I haven't made a typing error, it was a THREE times 880 yards event – that, and its' metric equivalent, were world record events at the time – and the Southern Counties team of Doris Born, Eileen Garritt, and Valerie Ball, beat teams from the WAAA and the Midland Counties to clock 7:07.8, a time which beat the previous world mark (at 2400m) by France eight seconds. It is unfortunate that no official individual times were taken for our girls – although I am sure I would have taken them from the stands, but to my shame I no longer have them.

Chapter 3

The most exciting, and probably emotional, race that I have ever been present for was without doubt the men's 4 x 400m relay final at the Olympics in Helsinki on Sunday, 27th July 1952.

The day, before the fastest heat time had been by the Federal Republic of Germany in 3:10.5, with the other heats won by Jamaica (3:12.1) and the USA (3:11.5), with Britain also making the last six, but everyone knew that the final was going to be a Jamaica/USA affair. And so it proved. I must admit that I was very biased towards Jamaica, as two of the team, Arthur Wint and Les Laing were mainstays of the British scene, and Herb McKenley was a particular favourite of mine. Only the American-based George Rhoden was a "newcomer" to me, although he had won the individual event title two days previously. On the opening lap Arthur Wint (46.8s) was disappointingly down by a metre to Ollie Matson (46.7s), but on the second Gerrard Cole (45.5s) opened up a big margin on Les Laing (47.0s). Then my hero McKenley ran what in those days was a fantastic leg (44.6s) to catch the 400m hurdles champion Charlie Moore (46.3s) and give Rhoden a metre lead on Olympic 800m champion Mal Whitfield. The gap never wavered on the anchor leg with both Rhoden and Whitfield running 45.5s. The final time of 3:03.9 (3:04.04) smashed the previous Olympic and World record of 3:08.2 set in the 1932 Games by the United States.

One of the my moments of great tension came at Stockholm on 30th June 1987. It was at the famous DN Galan meeting, and it was caused by the Swedish high jumper Patrik Sjöberg attempting a new world record of 2.42m.

Jumping indoors he had equalled the current outdoor mark of 2.41m nearly five months before, and now having cleared 2.24m, 2.32m and 2.35m, all on first jumps, he was now taking his third attempt at the new mark. It was close to 10 pm as he waited and waited and waited, the stadium crowd holding its communal breath, for what seemed like an extraordinary length of time. In fact the BBC producer in London couldn't stand it, and called down the "lazy" phone" to Coleman and Pickering, the commentators, " Say something, say something?". To which David answered with a curt "Shut up!" Finally Sjöberg, using the flop style, jumped, and cleared the bar to the great relief of all concerned.

The previous item reminded me of the first field event world record I saw. It was way back in July 1951 and it was when Sheila Lerwill (using, for women, the new fangled straddle style) set a new women's high jump mark of 1.72m during the WAAA championships at the White City.

The old mark had been a centimetre lower, and was cleared by the remarkable Dutch woman Fanny Blankers-Koen eight years previously. However, It actually turned out to be somewhat more complicated than that, as measurement in Britain in those far off days was by the Imperial system (ie feet and inches). The height that Lerwill cleared was supposed to be 5ft 7½in (which equated to 1.7145m), but it was actually 5ft 7⅝in (1.7178m) and this was then rounded up by the IAAF for ratification. A point of possible interest, or not, is that the following day was my 20th birthday.

Perhaps one of the remarkable track trebles ever recorded was that by the Soviet athlete Ludmila Bragina at the Munich Games in 1972.

Even taking account of the probable drug abuse of the day, it was still staggering for how it happened. In her national championships seven weeks previously she had smashed the world mark (then 4:09.6) with 4:06.9. In the first heat of the Games event she led from start to finish and clocked 4:06.5, while behind her the Canadian 17 year old Glenda Reiser set a Commonwealth mark of 4:06.7, and three other women went under 4:08.5. Three days later, in semi-final two, Bragina ran a similar initial pace and finished in yet another record of 4:05.1, with the next five under 4:09.0. This made 13 of those semi-finalists had run faster than the world record had been just over seven weeks before Munich. The final, on 9th of September, saw Bragina initially hold back, although the pace was still quite fast, but she covered her last 600m in 2:06.1 to stop the clock at a wonderful 4:01.4, with Britain's Sheila Carey in fifth place, but under the world mark with 4:04.8, itself a new Commonwealth record.

While on Munich I feel I must refer to Mary Peters and her brilliant victory in the women's pentathlon at that Games.

She had been fourth in 1964 and ninth in 1968, and at 33 one could not have expected much improvement, but her friends and fans had outside hopes of her winning the gold medal - few outside Britain thought so. Prior to 1972 Mary had primarily been a shot putter and a fairly good hurdler and high jumper, but her long jumping was pretty poor compared to her main rivals, Burglinde Pollak (GDR) and especially Heidi Rosendahl (FRG) - the West German was the world record holder and had won the long jump on the first day of the Games. In the first event, the 100m hurdles (replacing the old 80m distance), Mary ran a pb 13.29 which put her slightly ahead of the other two. After a poor first putt she sent the shot out to a good 16.20m, confirming her lead, and then came the high jump. She had mastered "new" flop technique and had become one of our better competitors. However, she had problems at several lower heights before settling down to clear a wonderful 1.82m. At end of the first day she now had 97 points over Pollak, and 301 over Rosendahl (a poor straddle of 1.65m), but both Germans were much better long jumpers and sprinters. Rosendahl leapt a windy 6.83m to considerably close the gap, while Pollak did 6.21m and Mary a good for her 5.98m. The final 200m had Pollak 47 and Rosendahl 121 points behind. I had calculated that Mary had to be no more than 1.2sec behind Heidi, quite a task but possible. At the end I had 23.0sec for the German with Mary at 24.1sec on my split watch, and was certain she had won the gold. Heidi had in fact run a magnificent 22.96sec, and after what seemed an interminably long wait, Mary's official time came up as 24.08sec, another pb to add to a world record 4801 points. Heidi was only 10 points behind - now that was close.

Chapter 4

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Chapter 5

I was lucky to be around for most of Linford Christie’s best races, but one that sticks in my mind happened before he really hit “the big time”.

It was the European Indoor champs at Madrid in February 1986, and he was entered in the 200m – a distance he considered to be “too far”. The track was only 164m round with very tight banked bends. Linford wasn’t ranked in the top ten, and indeed was second best Briton to Ade Mafe. After placing second in his heat and semi, he came off the final bend and burst into the lead to clock a pb (indoor or out) of 21.10sec. I realised then that he was on his way, but never quite expected what he actually achieved.

The European Cup at Edinburgh early in September 1973 was unusual as the women’s events were all on the first day of the three-day meeting.

The women’s discus event had three current or former world record holders, and especially Faina Melnik (URS) who had set new marks seven times in the last couple of years. At Meadowbank she demolished the opposition by over 5m with a new record of 69.48m. Over the next 3 years she broke it three more times. An hour or so beforehand Ruth Fuchs (GDR) had shattered the javelin world mark, in this case also her own, with 66.11m. This meeting had been forecast to be the greatest athletics occasion in Britain since the 1948 Olympics, and it lived up to it. Not surprisingly there were a host of UK all-comers records. I note that the best women’s discus I have ever seen was by Diana Gansky (GDR) at Karl-Marx-Stadt in June 1987 with a throw of 74.08m, still the fourth best of all time.

Writing about the javelin, it brings to mind another especial occasion.

I had just finished my BBC work at the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, and was totally wacked out. A producer whom I had never met came over and said “We’re going to Zurich next weekend, are you okay?” I muttered that I wasn’t sure, and he grunted “Okay, don’t come then” and stormed off. I nearly cried, but Ron Pickering ran after the man, and explained that I wasn’t an actual BBC employee, and I needed time to check with my employer (in this case the librarian at the GLC) to see if I could get the Friday off. Happily, the producer came back and “forgave” me. Even happier, I got the time off and went to the semi-final of that year’s European Cup, and watched our Dave Travis beat the great Janis Lusi (URS) in the javelin with a new British and Commonwealth record of 83.44m – a fantastic result. Incidentally that was the first of 28 years of foreign athletics trips with the BBC.

I have witnessed many cases of hilarity in our sport, not always intended, and I think one of the best occurred at Oslo on 26th June 1981.

The race was 1500m, and was thought to be an attempt on the world record by Steve Ovett, with a

tremendous field including such as Cram (GBR), Scott (USA), Walker (NZL), Wessinghage (GER) and Gonzalez (ESP). As the pacemaker or hare (and NOT rabbit as current commentators call the status) was a good class American named Tom Byers, himself a 3:36 1500m runner. Byers did a great job of pacemaking passing 400m in 57.52sec, and the next lap in 57.31. However, except initially for a virtually unknown Ethiopian, the rest of the field hung back, and were now some 50m behind, watching each other it seems, but crucially not the American. His next lap was 58.26, for a 1200m time of 2:53.09, and by now he was about 70m in front. Needless to say Byers began to fade after such a pace, but entering the final straight he was still some 30m ahead. An amused Ovett, and Scott and Gonzalez were closing fast – Ovett's last 400m was 52.3sec - while Byers could only do 61.5, but he just made it in 3:39.01, while a grinning Ovett did 3:39.53, just ahead of the mob.

While thinking about comic moments in our sport, I suddenly recalled an occasion that involved our top shot putter in the early 1950s, John Savidge, a truly big man who stood 2m tall and weighed 90kg.

When the javelin was being thrown at the White City stadium in those days, at waist-level (for most people) tape was placed around the infield to stop anyone from inadvertently crossing the landing area. This was the occasion when Savidge apparently decided to ignore the warning, and decided to cut across the ground. He very obviously was watching the throwers as he climbed over the tape, and as most of the javelin competitors were not that good, he seemed to be in no danger. However as he reached about a third of the way across, one of the better throwers let loose a pretty decent effort. It was suddenly caught by the wind and veered towards where Savidge was walking. John had his eyes on the implement and began backing away from where it seemed to be aiming. The javelin veered even more and Savidge backed away faster, and in so doing came back up to the guardian tape, which in his case caught him behind his knee. With a loud cry he fell on his back with his arms outstretched, to apparently ward off the javelin, which actually landed quite a distance away. After initial shouts of alarm, the very big crowd broke into loud laughter as a Savidge picked himself up and shame-facedly crept away.

As best I can remember, I reckon I only made one stop watch mistake in my 28 years with the BBC commentary team.

It was during the Great Britain versus the USSR match at Kiev in May 1976. There were only Ron Pickering and myself this time, and we were alone in a commentary position on top of the main stand. There was basically no information sent to us during the meeting, and it was very difficult, even with binoculars, to see the field event scoreboards. On the second day, when our two athletes in the 5000m were Tony Simmons and Nick Rose, there had been no improvement to the information supply. Thus I had to time the race and try and keep track of the four field events going on at the same time. My stop watch at the time was an old analogue one with a 30 second sweep, and somehow I added a half-minute to the final time, so that instead of Simmons finishing in 13:21.2 and Rose in 13:22.4 – at the time the fastest of the year – I gave Ron 13:51.2 and 13:52.4. We didn't realise our mistake until the end of the match, when Ron expressed our sincere apologies to the British athletes.

Incidentally after the first day of the match, which had only a poor crowd watching, the stadium was cleared. Then many Soviet soldiers were marched in and occupied the first two rows all the way round. Then a stadium-filling crowd of some 80,000 people were let in to watch that year's semi-final of the European Football Cup, between the USSR and Czechoslovakia. Ron and I stayed to watch it from our eyrie, and it was a terrific win for the Czechs, who later won the European title. The reason I mention this match is that it is the only live football that I have watched since I "discovered" athletics in 1948.

THE BOOKSHELF

ISRAEL ATHLETICS ANNUAL 2019-2020

David Eiger and Aril Cooks



The latest edition of David Eiger and Arik Cook's Israel Athletics Annual compiled for the Israeli Athletic Association covering the 2019 season is now available.

The publication contains ranking list for all events, profiles of leading Israeli athletes, National Records and results of major competitions.

Contact David at eigerdavid@gmail.com for your copy.

Copies of past seasons are also still available.

Janusz Waśko



*Born 1953 in Zawost.
Economist as a profession. Graduated Economic University Krakow 1976.
40 years of professional work as a manager. Emergent Distribution
and Sales Enterprise.
Activities and continuing statistician since 1964. AZES Member since 1982.
Author of 35 books from this area.
Member of Board IZMAI. Polish Athletics Federation 2005-2008.
Another major form of activity with interest in international tourism –
especially mountains and Mediterranean Zone and has organized
174 bus holidays' excursions.
Two child children.
Lives in Mazowiec – historical town in eastern Poland,
named as 'pearl of Renaissance' or 'Palace of North'.*

John Brant



*Born 1953 in Kingston Upon Hull.
Graduated Shiphill University 1975 in History.
Worked as Secondary School Teacher
for 15 years and now Manager of International Shipping
and Transport Company since 1996.
Great Britain member of the IZMAI since 1972.
Author of three books on Women's Athletics.
Followed women's athletics since aged 7 in 1960 watching
on television Emma Ogilvie from Great Britain.
Has contributed to represent Great Britain to athletes under 20 athletes.
Major love of food is
Lives in Hull, a North Eastern English town which once was the largest fish
port in the world built on ruins of a Roman town.*

Steponas Misiūnas



*Born on March 8, 1947 in Alytus. Lives in Kaunas already 70 years.
Engineer of computer technologies works in the largest hospital
in Lithuania – Kaunas University – in the branch of computer networks
for the last 25 years.
The history and statistics of sports, especially athletics are
of interest since his young days. He is Lithuania Athletics Federation
website administrator and maintainer from 2004.*

ISBN: 978-83-64544-26-2

• John Brant • Janusz Waśko • Steponas Misiūnas •

*VI edition
excitingly
extended
and revised*



World Women's Athletics 100 Best Performers Year Lists 1911-1962



J. Brant, J. Waśko, S. Misiūnas World Women's Athletics 100 Best Performers Year Lists 1911-1962



WORLD WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
100 Best Performers 1911-1962
sixth edition

John Brant, Janusz Waśko and Stepanos Msiunas.

It really is magnificent as a very important part of the documentation of our sport. John and Janusz have done such incredible work in digging out the performances of women's athletes year by year in this period, so that 100 deep lists can be included, and they have been joined for this edition by Steponas Misiunas of Lithuania who has found many new marks from the Soviet Union.

Peter Matthews.
Editor Athletics International & International Athletics Annual

The publication is available from John Brant, at email: john195@john195.karoo.co.uk.

STATISTICS PUBLICATIONS 2019 COMBINED EVENTS

The following statistical publications are available in (electronical) PDF-format, as follows:

2019 Annual Combined Events	EUR 15,-
Statistics Handbook Götzis 2019	EUR 10,-
Statistics Handbook ECCE 1973 – 2019	EUR 15,-
100 years Olympic Decathlon 1912 – 2012	EUR 15,-
All time best performers above 7.500 Decathlon	EUR 5,- [1.634 athletes]
All time best performances above 8.000 Decathlon	EUR 5,- [2.596 results]
All time best performers above 5.500 Heptathlon	EUR 5,- [1.488 athletes]
All time best performances above 6.000 Heptathlon	EUR 5,- [3.211 results]

All necessary information for coaches, athletes, journalists and other interested persons in combined events of all world top athletes and history in combined events is reported in these files.

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