



ATFS BULLETIN

Association of Track and Field Statisticians

4/2020

December 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Sadly, the COVID pandemic which continues to rage around the world has had a major impact on our sport as it has to all other sports and life in general.

I sincerely hope no members have been infected with this dreadful virus as it would have a devastating effect on many of us who are considered elderly.

Even though there were no Olympic Games, we still had our quadrennial elections, and we now have a new Executive. Please note we do have a vacancy, so if you are interested please come forward.

This year, as reported earlier, we were able to regain ownership of the ATFS Annual, and with World Athletics help -- and great work by our treasurer Tom Casacky and Stuart Mazdon's work with Lulu and Peter Matthews' editorship -- we were able to see the 2020 volume come to life in memory of our great founder Roberto Quercetani.

The plans for the next edition are much the same, depending on World Athletics support. We will have talks with World Athletics in December. Having said that, we would like input from you, the members, as to what goes into the Annual. Are you happy with the present format or do you wish something else to be included or replaced?

The work on the 1900-1910 world lists continues under the great co-ordination of Tomas Magnusson. Work is completed to October 1907, with more than 154,000 marks

and most lists 100 deep. New women's marks have been added by John Brant.

For those interested in women's athletics, please make sure you purchase a copy of John's and Janusz Wasko's latest edition of *Women's World Athletics 100 Best Performers Lists 1911-1962*.

Please also make use of the ATFS website and let Michael McLaughlin know what else to include. We already have uploaded the ongoing work of Richard Hymans and Pino Mappa, who are reconstructing annual world rankings, currently in the 1930's. Your input is vital. Put some info about yourself on the member's list -- a photo at least.

Like everyone else, we have no idea how athletics in 2021 will evolve. With vaccines hopefully available some time next year, we may gradually return to normal. At this stage, the IOC plan to hold the Tokyo Olympic Games. The Diamond League is going ahead as is the World Indoor season. Hopefully the sun will shine on our sport.

On a final note, please make sure your membership dues are paid. We do have costs, as you will see in the Treasurer's report.

I wish you and your families a very joyous Festive Season and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Kind Regards,
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.

ATFS Finances as of 15 December 2020

All amounts in USD

Citibank checking account	16,525.98
Citibank deposit certificates	41,428.04
Additional PayPal holdings*	3,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	60,954.02

*PayPal holdings are approximate: some are in unconverted Euros

Our estimated income (to date) from member subscriptions in 2020 totals \$2,417.83.

This year we incurred a new, and major, expense for the first time. In order to provide members with *Athletics 2020*, the ATFS was compelled to pay the entire cost of its production to its owner, SportsBooks Ltd., and the editor. Previously, these costs had been offset by direct sales from the publisher, and (once) by a subsidy from the Association. Sales had diminished substantially in recent years, to the extent that it was no longer profitable for SportsBooks to produce the book.

Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of Chris Turner (ATFS, GBR) and World Athletics Heritage, a very generous donation from World Athletics Vice President Prince Nawaf Bin Mohammed Al Saud made it possible for all members to receive printed copies of the book. His patronage also saved us about \$3500 USD in postal expenses. We have been able to sell about 160 books to non-members through Lulu.com, an opportunity negotiated thanks to much work by Stuart Mazdon (ATFS, GBR).

Going forward, for the first time since 1983, the ATFS is now owner of, and responsible for, any "Annual" that might be published under our name. We hope to negotiate arrangements for a 2021 volume in the upcoming weeks.

Cost of production, *Athletics 2020*

Peter Matthews fee	9,041.60
Randall Northam fee	9,488.90
Total	18,530.50
World Athletics subsidy	-8,738.00
Actual cost of production	9,792.50
Sales to date (via Lulu.com)	-2,439.76
Bottom-line cost to ATFS (to date)	7,352.74

Subscriptions for 2021 will remain at \$30 USD/€25 Euros.

Invoices will be emailed in February. Feel free to address me with any questions.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and enjoyable holiday season.

Tom Casacky
Treasurer.

Unfinancial Members

At last review, 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, Vycichlo

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Membership Updates

Change of Email

Milos ALTER (Cze) can now be contacted at: altermi@seznam.cz

Jed BRICKNER (USA) can now be contacted at: jedbrickner@gmail.com

Ron CASEY (Aus) can now be contacted at: roncatherine9@gmail.com

Ray HERDT (Ger) can now be contacted at: rayherdt0@gmail.com

Member Application

An application has been received from:

Chris M DAVIS

9524 4th Place

Lorton, Virginia 22079 USA

chrismdavis2@gmail.com

Subject to any member objections Mr Davis will be added to our membership list in 2021.

ATFS EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEE

2021 – 2024

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). 3 Vacancies.

AN OPEN DISCUSSION

The following is a discussion paper from member Ramesh Ganesh KHARKAR

Please feel free to correspond directly with Ramesh at (ramesh_kharkar@yahoo.co.in) with your thoughts on these and other related matters.

VICTORY CELEBRATION FORBIDDEN

There was an effort by every Olympic Organiser from the beginning to gather big number of sportsmen from all over the world at the venue of the Olympics or such international games, and surprisingly now the Rules are being framed to send these Athletes out of the stadium as fast as possible.

The man sacrifices his life, years of his youth, career, pleasure days to become Best Sportsman in his nation, continent, world; and when he reaches the starting line, with one foul start he is disqualified and sent out of the arena. His dream of years shatters then and there only. His career is down the drain. Simply because the Organisers, Professionals, Sponsors do not want crowded programme. Even a criminal also is given a chance to plead his case in the court of law.

Removal of the finishing tape, single foul start disqualification, two attempts for jumps and throws; Besides the pending argument for 100/1000 of second barrier between set and gunshot are the barriers of the professional contractors to curtail progress in sports.

Continued over leaf

The immense development of sports and advancement in the records is attributed to science, Engineering, Medicine, Research & with combination of these all better training technique.

In athletics fiber-glass pole replaced the bamboo and the valuator climbed steadily upwards. However great series of cornelivs warmerdon can not be forgotten. Light weight shoes with variation of nails plus the synthetic track dramatically reduced the track timings. Yet the legendary Jesse Owens 10.2 is yet regarded with anawe, done with thick leather spike shoes on cinder track.

The Javelin was altered as it was reaching farther, from one end of the stadium to another and causing accidents. But then why not conduct it out the stadium, and allow the mighty athletes to progress further. But instead the equipment was so changed that it may not go farther. But with that Javelin also the record has reached to 98 plus metres. The same thing would happen to Hammer one of these days and they may think of increasing weight of Hammer from 16 Ib. to 18 Ib.

Distance running records on cinder track by Paavo Nurmi, Kolehmainen, J. Zender, Sydney Wooderson, Gender Hagg, Emil Zatepek, Vladimir Kuts, Ville Ritola, V. Heino can not be compared and underestimated with present world bests by Morceili, Said Aouita, Steve Cram, Sebastin Coe, M. Kiptanui, Haile Gebresilasie, Yobes Ondieki, R. Chelimo on the synthetic surface.

It won't be out of place here to recall that the first man to run 100Yds, in 9.4 Sec. Was deprived of his world best as he- George Simson took start from startingblocks.

Presently I wish to invite your attention to the major injustice done to the Athletes all over the world at important Meets. That is to deprive them off the joy of breasting the tape in grand style.

Until 1974 Rule No.62 said "Unless in the opinion of the Referee it is undesirable because of the direction and the velocity of the wind worsted shall be stretched across the track between the finish posts 1.22 metres (4ft.) above the ground and fastened to the posts ----- assisting the Referee and the judges in placing the competitors".

By 1982 it was Rule No.162, and the additional sentence was "when there is fully automatic electrical timing, worsted shall not be used".

In both the cited Rules everything is done to help the officials, organizations. No attention is paid to the sentiments and requirements of the athlete, his joy of reaching ahead of everyone.

In this respect great finishes of Lee Calhoun and Jack Davis, Lee and Willie May, Hayes Jones, Guy Druet over the high hurdles are treasured memories. In fact every Hurdler have to time has lunge, dive on the wool, to beat the type to win.

When we talk of sprint finish we can not forget stories of mighty American Sprinter Charles William Paddock. He used to jump at finish tape 12 to 16 feet almost.

The most controversial finish was that of 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. In 1932 the then Rules maintained crossing of the finish line by athlete's torso (and not merely REACHING as it is presently).

Tall and powerful Rall Metculfe and short and sturdy built Eddi Tolan with his specs taped to his forehead broke the tape in blanket finish. Tolan was awarded a hairline decision by the judges over Metcalfe. The seven judges of the Finish viewed the screenins of the film. The filming was done by Kirby two-eye camera. Mr. Gustavus T. Kirby of New York the chief judge announced "The pictures showed the two men hit the tape at exactly the same instant. According to the rules-sledom understood by the public- the tape is not the finish, but merely an aid to the judges. The finish is the line on the ground, and a man has not finished the race when he has breasted the tape. He has only finished when his Entire torso has passed over, or completely crossed the line on ground. The films ----- proved conclusively that Tolan's torso crossed this line two inches ahead of Metcalfe's. the time was 10.28".

As per present rule both the runners would have been granted FIRST PLACE and would have been awarded Gold Medal. As it was done at Brisbane in XII Commonwealth Games when Alan Wells of Scotland and Michael Mc-Farlane of England could not be superated by electronic cameras. 7th October 1982 (Reference ATFS Annual 1983 page 64).

Another dead heat in the history of Athletics that I recall was on 22nd June 1963 at St. Louis in AAU Meet when Henry Carn and Paul Drayton tied for the first place in 220Yds. With time of 20.4Sec., (20.69 on Bullova-wind aided) it is recorded in international Athletics Annual 1964 pags 40 under 200Mts. Lists. There the time is converted to 20.3 being of 200Mts.

The world Championship, Stuttgart and the Olympics Atlanta Women's 100 Final is fresh in memory of everyone. Marlene Otty sincerely feels that the verdict should have gone to her only.

A TAPE to distinguish the vertical boundary of the Finish line would not only solve such controversies but certainly make it easy accuraciwise for Athlete to calculate his/her dip-lunge for REACHING THE FINISH. With the eight finalists finish, the athletes in inner lanes have no alternative left but glance sidewise, which ultimately slows them down by hundredth of Second hurl their bodies over the so called finish boundary, and wait anxiously for the electronic board display the results.

At this stage I cannot resist the temptation to write about one of the greatest finish Olympics fans has ever seen. The sprint event being won by Hurdles. Yes, I know you would think of Gail Davers. But I am writing of Harrison - Bones Dillard. He breasted the tape from the sixth track. However, Barney Ewell his fellow countryman, thrice winner of AAU 100/200; Twice winner of NCAA Sprints and one of the finest sprinter, world has ever seen lunged on the tape, both arms flaying back from the track two; thought that he has won the gold and started dancing. But then realized no one was coming forward to congratulate him but were gathered round Dillard. So was the close finish of 1948 Olympics.

Considering all these examples we the statisticians while gauging the height, length and speed of the performance must persuade the organizers to create the conditions that would help athlete to compete comfortably. For the sake of electronics, video, advertising and the media people the athletes are being restricted by more and more restrictions. As it is the sprinter is frightened by the mob of cameramen standing in front of finish line.

Presently the beam of the photophinish camera can cover from the top right of the stadium. Necessary arrangements may be done to restore TAPE AT THE FINISH for the Athletes; whom we pledge to serve.

Ramesh G. Kharkar

MEMORIES

By: Stan GREENBERG

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

Chapter 6.

Not an athletic performance, but one of my clearest memories of a meeting at Crystal Palace, is from the Great Britain versus Germany match in June 1991. The memory is of a comment made by the announcer (it may have been Bob Sparks) after an event to the effect that “With that result computed – hah,computed! I’m using an envelope and a biro”.

I found the victory of Sally Gunnell in the Olympic 400m hurdles at Barcelona in 1992 of special significance to me personally. In the months before the race she had developed a bad habit of stuttering at the last hurdle, particularly if she was under pressure. A few days before the Games event I happened to see her and commented that I didn’t understand why she did that as she was undoubtedly the best hurdler in the field. She was then also the British 100m hurdle record holder. In the Olympic final as we all held our breath, she cleared the last hurdle smoothly to gain a great win. It so happened that as she won, the BBC was unusually also taking a film of the commentator position, and caught me jumping up and down excitedly, something that I rarely did. All my friends at home saw me. The following year when she won the World title in Stuttgart in a new world record, I was dignify itself, but of course, very excited

Having been privileged to be present at many of Seb Coe’s best races, I was very pleased to be in Oslo July 1979, when he took a second off Alberto Juantorena’s world record of 1:43.4. Later it was re-instated in it’s photo-finish state as 1:42.33. Paced by Jamaican Lennie Smith, Seb passed 400m in 50.6sec, and then reached 600m in 1:15.4, before winning by over 3 seconds, only slightly out of breath. He looked invincible over the distance. Come forward a year to the Moscow Olympics, and soon after the 800m I happened to see him just outside the Lenin Stadium, just the two of us. As we had met before, I congratulated him on his silver medal, and he stared at me as though he thought I was “taking the mickey”. He growled something, and I told him that he had just run his stupidest race ever, and yet he had still got second. He realised that I was serious, and muttered something to the effect “I suppose so”. I like to think we have been friends since then.

One can’t write about Coe without also writing about Steve Ovett. There was a time when the whole of Great Britain was divided into Coe and Ovett camps. I had always found Steve to be rather withdrawn, and though I applauded his terrific achievements, I must say that I didn’t warm to him very much. I am happy to say that my attitude changed in later years, as I found him to be a most pleasant companion when he came to European meetings after retiring to Australia. I think his most impressive run, despite his Olympic win, was over 1500m at the 1977 World Cup in Dusseldorf. We had always known that Ovett was a winner with his terrific finish in a slowish race, but this was when he stepped up to the top world class in any race. It was an excellent field and was fast from the start, with Thomas Wessinghage (FRG) going through the first 400m in 56.5sec, then John Walker (NZL) led at 800m in 1:55.0. At this point Steve was half a second behind in third place. The next lap slowed, with Dave Hill (CAN) leading at 1200m in 2:54.9, with Walker and Ovett up close. With 200m to go Ovett let loose and suddenly a big gap opened. He ran his last 400m in 54.5sec, and the last 200m in an impressive 25.1sec, to win easily in 3:34.5, a new UK record. Well behind was the German in 3:36.0, while Walker, the world mile record holder, had dropped out.

As my mind has wandered, it came to rest on Diane Leather (GBR), whose exploits, though long ago, were quite important to our sport as the IAAF began to acknowledge that women could run beyond 800m. She became the first woman to break five minutes for the mile with 4:59.6 in the Midlands champs at Birmingham on 29th May 1954. During this race she passed 1500m some seven seconds faster than the unofficial world best of 4:37.0 by the Soviet runner Otkalenko.

At the White City in September 1955 she clocked 4:45.0 for the mile and improved her 1500m to 4:22.2. She also held the official world 880 yard record for a time with 2:09.0. However the honour of being the first official holder of the mile mark fell to her countrywoman Anne Smith, who ran 4:37.0 in the Southern champs at Chiswick on 3rd June 1967. She also got the official 1500m mark on the way with 4:17.3.

Among the athletes that I have most enjoyed watching was Gordon Pirie, and I had seen him break British records at 2000m, 3000m, 2 miles, 3 miles and a world record at 6 miles. However, I believe the best race I ever saw him in was over 1 mile. The occasion was the 1953 British Games and the race was the inaugural Emsley Carr mile. Also in the race were Bill Nankeville, Chris Chataway, Ingvar Eriksson (SWE), Olaf Lawrenz (GER), and the favourite, the American champion Wes Santee, with a best of 4:02.4 and someone thought to be a real threat for the four-minute mile. It was not particularly fast, and as Santee - also a top class 800m runner - went to the front on the last lap, we all thought he was the winner. However, Pirie was just behind him and entering the final straight, Gordon passed the American and won in his best ever time of 4:06.8, to Santee's 4:07.2. I didn't hear the actual result announced, as the incredible roar from the crowd literally deafened me for about ten minutes. Nankeville was seven seconds behind in third.

One of the greatest female athletes of all time was Irena Kirzenstein-Szewinska of Poland. Actually born in Leningrad just after WWII, she moved to Poland when young. She came to international prominence as an 18 year old, winning silver medals in the long jump and 200m, and a gold in the sprint relay in the 1964 Olympics. She also won medals in 1968 (including 200m gold) and 1972, it was her win in the Montreal 400m in 1976 which I think was her best. She had become the first woman to clock under 50 seconds in 1974, with a hand timed 49.9sec, and a month before Montreal had taken the auto timing mark to 49.75sec. At the Games she unusually concentrated on this one event, and surprisingly only qualified in heat and quarter-final in third place. In her semi she set a new Olympic record of 50.48sec, which was more like it. Then in the final she decimated a top class field, smashing her own world record with a truly startling 49.29sec. It is not often remembered that she ran in the 1980 Games, where looking good in the 400m semi she suffered a tendon injury which perhaps stopped her from becoming one of the few women to gain medals in five Games.

Chapter 7.

One of the great rivalries of all-time in athletics was between the Soviet hammer throwers Yuri Sedykh and Sergei Litvinov in the 1980s. They are the only men to have legally thrown over 85m, and had done it, usually when competing against one another, a total of 26 times. On most occasions Sedykh was the winner, but not always. Sedykh set six world records, and Litvinov set three. The highlight of these "duels" came at the European Championships at Stuttgart in August 1986, and to borrow a phrase from my friend Mel Watman, "I was there". Sedykh won a remarkable contest with a new world record, which still stands, of 86.74m, with Litvinov exactly a metre behind. To someone who could still recall watching Jozsef Csermak (HUN) set the mark at 60.34m in 1952, you can perhaps imagine my feelings.

Possibly the most shocking (and I note that in all meanings of the word) results I have read was that of the time of the winner of the US Olympic Trials women's 100m in 1988. Florence Griffith Joyner was given a time of 10.49sec - a startling improvement over the previous world record of 10.76sec by fellow American Evelyn Ashford four years before. My immediate reaction was disbelief, and to this day I find it very hard to accept - there have always been queries about the timing device and about the probable wind assistance.

Nevertheless it is still the official world record. When I did see her run, at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, she clocked a marvellous 10.54sec but with a strong wind. Even more startlingly, after a semi of 21.56sec, she won the 200m in an unbelievable 21.34sec (wind +1.2), simply smashing the 21.71sec record by Heiki Drechsler. As these outstanding performances happened at Seoul there is

a part of me that finds it difficult not to bracket her with Ben Johnson in an unfortunate way.

While on the subject of Seoul, I cannot let pass the prodigious performance by Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA) in the women's heptathlon. She totalled a superb 7291 points, adding 75 points to her record achievement at the previously mentioned US Trials. Her individual results were 12.69sec, 1.86m, 15.80m, 22.56m, 7.27m, 45.66m, and 2:08.51. Surprisingly, her only individual pb came in the 800m, although she did set another winning the Games long jump five days later. A total heptathlon score based on her pbs would be a magnificent 7654 points.

Steve Cram had a wonderful five week period in July/August of 1985, when he set a series of pbs and records rarely surpassed. They consisted of, in order, 1500m in a WR 3:29.67, a WR mile in 3:46.32, a WR 2000m in 4:31.39, a pb 1000m in 2:12.88(the second best ever) and a pb 800m in 1:42.88. I was very privileged (courtesy of the BBC) to be present at them all. It still astonishes me that Britain had the likes of Coe, Ovett and Cram around at virtually the same time, giving us an 8-10 year period when we dominated the middle distances.

Probably the best women's hammer competition I have witnessed occurred during what was one of the best overall championships I have attended. It was the 2009 World Champs at Berlin and though Usain Bolt's sprinting records remain foremost in the mind, I also recall the particular excellence of the women's hammer. Betty Heidler (GER) broke the champs record in the qualifying round, and looked to be in winning form. However, in the second round of the final Anita Wlodarczyk of Poland sent the implement out to 77.96m for a new world mark. Unfortunately, in her excited jumping around at the news, she twisted her ankle and had to sit and watch the German improve with each following throw, achieving 77.12m with her fifth effort. Nine other women threw over 70m in that final, including the former record holder Lysenko (RUS). Since then Wlodarczyk has become the only woman to go over 80m, which she has done 17 times, and her current mark is 82.98m.

The sprint relays at the 2012 Olympic Games in London are best described as mind-blowing. Someone like me, who had grown up with the 39.8sec time of the American men's team in 1936, could not initially comprehend just what the great Jamaican team (albeit anchored by the phenomenal Bolt) had done with their 36.84sec win. I could still remember the near-sorrow of hearing of the 39.5sec clocking by the US Olympic team in Melbourne in the 1956 Games, eliminating that 20 year old icon. Now, here was a performance which, as far as I am concerned, as a once fair relay runner myself, is one of the greatest athletics performances ever achieved.

Virtually the same remarks can be made about the women's event at the London Games. The GDR had held the world record since 1973 taking it from 42.6sec down to 41.37sec at the World Cup meeting in Canberra in 1985. In the last 27 years the nearest anyone had come to that mark was by the Americans when they won the 1997 World Champs event at Athens in 41.47sec. In London in 2012 the US team won it's heat in 41.64sec, but then brought in Allyson Felix (gold in the 200m) and Carmelita Jeter (silver in the 100m). We realised that they would improve the squad, but nobody could have expected the resulting performance of a stupendous 40.82sec. As an afterthought, that would have placed them second in the aforementioned men's relay in 1936.

One of our best coaches, Lloyd Cowan, was previously one of our top high hurdlers, and was very pleased to be selected for the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada. He had made the team with a clocking of 13.75sec when competing in the Belgian champs in July. Over time we had become quite friendly, and I would often tease him about his performances. In Victoria, at the training ground on the day before his event, I happened to notice him in a small group looking at a list of Commonwealth season's bests. I crept up behind him, and stated loudly "There's something fishy

about those English hurdle times". His 1.93m frame tightened perceptively, and, obviously angry, he slowly turned to see who had made the remark. At first he didn't see anyone, but then glancing down he saw little me grinning, and burst into laughter – just as well.

In 1973, Filbert Bayi of Tanzania had got a reputation for leading very fast in middle distance races, but then dying away for others to pass him. At the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand in February 1974, running his usual way he won his heat in the 800m and qualified 4th in his semi, both on the same day. In the final next day he hung on to gain third. The following day he won his heat of the 1500m in 3:38.2, a much faster time than the other two. However, my BBC colleagues thought that something was up, due to information I had given them.

In the days prior to the Games starting, I had come across Bayi doing some remarkable training. As I approached a training track I noticed him doing about three laps of the track quite fast with a jogging lap in between. When I got to where his coach was timing him, watched him do about another three, and looking over the shoulder of the coach, with his permission I might add, I saw that he had written down a series of 56+ times. As I moved away he did at least another two laps or so at what seemed to be the same pace. When I related this to David Coleman, he queried the times initially, but then realised I knew what I was talking about. So we were ready for something good, but not quite what happened. In the final Bayi opened up a gap straight away with a 54.9sec first lap, and then widened it to pass 800m in 1:52.2, about 25m in advance. Time at the bell was 2:36.7, and the pack were closing, probably sure they would pick him off. But no, and even though John Walker ran his last lap in a marvellous 54.4sec, Bayi did a 55.4sec to break Jim Ryun's 6½ year old world record with 3:32.2.

Strangely enough the worst mistake that I ever made was not on actual timing, but in communication. It was at the Bislett Games at Oslo on 7th July 1962 and was when covering Britain's Dave Moorcroft in a 5000m race. I should perhaps explain that when I worked with the BBC as statistician I would make out charts for long races for the commentator – normally David Coleman. The chart I would make out would show the lap times of a particular estimated final time, against which I would put the actual times reached after each lap. Thus, for this Oslo race, I had made out a chart based on a time of 13:20.00, which I considered likely taking account of the status of the field. Now this would have been okay if it differed much from what was actually happening if David had been there, as he was an excellent judge of pace.

However, David wasn't in Oslo and Ron Pickering, who had rarely if ever commentated on a top class distance race, was doing it. As my excuse I offer that as usual I was covering field events as well, so I didn't realise that Ron had little knowledge of pace. So it was that with Moorcroft, who was mainly known for his finish, setting out on a fast race, I only realised with a couple of laps to go that he was on for a very fast time. It meant that Ron never even mentioned the possibility of a world record till about a lap and a half to go, and he was heavily criticised afterwards. As it was Moorcroft led from 800m and gradually stretched away from the rest of the field, passing 3000m in 7:50.2, and finished over 20sec ahead of the next man in a sensational 13:00.41.

To Be Continued ...

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 Zamost.
Economist as a profession. Graduated Economic University Krakow 1976.
Years of professional work as a manager. Emergent Distribution, optika, Interart.
Athlete and swimming statistician since 1964. AIFES Member since 1982.
Author of 35 books from this area.
Member of Board IZAL, Polish Athletics Federation 2007-2008.
Another major form of activity with interests in international tourism – especially mountains and Mediterranean Zone and has organized IZL has organized excursions.
Two other activities.
Lives in Zamost – historical town in eastern Poland, named as „pearl of renaissance” or „Palace of North”.

John Brant



Born 1953 in Kingston Upon Hull.
Graduated Sheffield University 1975 in History.
Worked as Secondary School Teacher for 15 years and now Manager of International Shipping and Travelport Company since 1996.
Great Britain member of the IAAF since 1972.
Author of three books on Women's Athletics.
Followed women's athletics since aged 7 in 1960 watching on television. Found Olympics Great Britain's first 100m hurdles.
Have conducted research Great Britain's athletes under 20 athletes.
Major focus of food is.
Lives in Hull, a South Eastern English town which once was the largest fish port in the world built on top of a rock in the sea.

Steponas Misiūnas



Born on March 8, 1947 in Alytus. Lives in Mantas already 70 years.
Engineer of computer technologies, works in the largest hospital in Lithuania – Mantas Vilnius – in the branch of computer assistance for the last 25 years.
The history and statistics of figure skaters, especially athletes, are of interest to him in his work. He is Lithuanian Athletics Federation website administrator and maintainer from 2006.

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