

## Record breaking Turnout at the XIII. Masters World Championships in Berlin

The XIII. Masters World Championships in Modern Pentathlon and Tetrathlon 2014 took place on the history-charged but nevertheless beautiful area around the Olympic Stadium in Berlin from September 17th to 21st. It really turned into a challenge for the organizers around Sandor Körös, Rüdiger Menz, Sebastian Schubert, Joachim Krupp and Bernhard Petruschinski as well as for all the other judges and responsible authorities making this mammoth event possible. No less than 120 athletes from 23 nations had gathered to compete for the medals to be issued in relay, individual and team competitions.

Around 70 starters alone had registered for the Modern Pentathlon competitions, the rest to match each other in Tetrathlon. Already organization of the horses was no minor task as they had to be brought over from the Netherlands. Also for the benefit of the International Senior German Championships, whose attendants were able to ride these horses one week earlier at same location.

While the majority of the athletes participating during last decades Masters World Championships mainly found together from the European area, this time it was a real worldwide gathering, worthy to actually carry the name of this event. Athletes this year came from as far as Panama, Guatemala, the United States of America, South Africa, Canada and even Australia and New Zealand.

Especially remarkable was the huge number of younger masters athletes within age groups 30+ and 40+, just about having left their active career or still with it. Among them a good dozen of former Olympians and even more former world cup level athletes. This clearly indicates, that Pentathlon masters sports (following the trend in other sport disciplines) has long lost image of old age sports. The younger generations of formerly active athletes now have realized the attractiveness and social acceptance of this peculiar manifestation of their beloved sport and vehemently approaches the masters community. Competing there meanwhile is considered cool and earning masters medals and merits has become increasingly difficult, thus earned successes not just means fun, lifestyle and renewal of old friendships but also social reputation and public acceptance.

For sure this World Championships have given a new boost to masters Pentathlon. This was clearly to be seen at the significantly raised performance level. Many runs around one minute over 100 meters freestyle and slightly over six minutes along the curved 2000 meters track clearly indicate that.

This World Championships still were conducted following the classical rules with separate running and shooting. Nevertheless the new masters rules 2014 already have proved themselves successful. Avoidance of single starters in certain categories and non valuation of results below at least three competitors or teams per age group really brought more fairness and transparency and provided more attractive competitions. All team and relay events were conducted using only one major category (Male and Female 30+). Individual disciplines however were conducted in 10 years age groups (M30+ up to M70+).

The highlight of the first day with no doubt was the Pentathlon mixed relay competition. During this day it became very clear, that this discipline deserves to become Olympic in future. Perhaps a happy indicator for this goal was the fact, that no less than five former Olympians competed in this event among ten national teams. The whole event was close and thrilling throughout the day. Decisions fell not before the last discipline, which finally saw the two Hungarian teams in front. Gold went to Beata Simoka/Imre Bankuti (1301 points), Silver

to Katalin Partics/György Miko (1284 points) and Germany (Peter Engerisser/Beate Schenkel, 1266 points) finished on third place, followed by Great Britain (Silk/Fazekas, 1246 points) and Latvia (Duhanows/Nowicka, 1179 points).

Three more relays were conducted that day: men's Pentathlon being won by Latvia (Malasenok/Chaikovskiy), men's Tetrathlon won by Spain (Ecudero-Morales/Rejon) and women's Tetrathlon won by Germany (Schley/Grosse).

The highlights of the two days individual competitions were the men's and women's 30+, 40+ and 50+ Pentathlon competitions, the men's M40+ Tetrathlon and the M70+ Pentathlon.

The women's F30+ Pentathlon was won by Florence Meyer-Dinichert from Switzerland (1379 points) followed by Andrea Novicka from Latvia (1219 points) and Katalin Partics from Greece (1073 points with an unfortunate zero points in riding).

The women's F40+ Pentathlon saw two British girls in front: Denise Silk (1301 points) won Gold, followed by Vicky Russel (1248 points) and Gesche Reimers from Germany (1173 points).

The F50+ Pentathlon was won by Victoria Wilks from Australia, followed by Jennifer O'Hanlon from South Africa and Gerlind Nagel from Germany.

The women's Pentathlon team competition was just among two German teams: GER1 (Gesche Reimers, Gerlind Nagel, Beate Schenkel) won in front of GER2 (Elena Wiegmann, Nicole Brunk, Marisa Wartig).

No less than 20 competitors competed in the M40+ Pentathlon on an amazing performance level. Estonia's Rain Raidna finished first with 1392 points. Silver and bronze ranks were as close as one can imagine. Germanys Sebastian Dietz gained tremendous ground by running an unbelievable 2000 meters race in 6 minutes 21 seconds. He caught up 4 ranks and won bronze with 1376 points staying just one second behind Latvia's 2-times Olympian Vjacheslav Duhanovs (1377 points). Only one runner was able to beat Sebastian's time. This was Jose Guitan from Panama competing in Pentathlon M30+, finishing running in unbelievable 6 minutes 9 seconds, but ended on fourth place. This competition was won by Kelvin Hilgholt from the Netherlands, followed by Troels Antvorskov of Denmark and Matthias Bergner of Germany.

Pentathlon M50+ with 13 starters was all in Russian and Ukrainian hands. It was won by Andrey Perevaryuka (1413 points). Oleg Zhulov (RUS, 1344 points) finished second and Mikola Kulyk (UKR, 1299 points) third.

The M60+ Pentathlon was won by Kibal Tambet (EST), followed by Victor Taran (RUS) and Reinhold Fischer (GER).

Most impressing was the Pentathlon M70+ with four competitors, all finishing the complete riding course. An amazing 71 years old Max Hänni from Switzerland (he had a downfall from horse in the mixed relay the day before, causing a big bruise in his right thigh) won this competition with 1476! points, running the curved 1000 meters in 3:55! minutes. He was followed by the multiple Olympian competitor Jörn Steffensen from Denmark and 76 year Erwin Stalder from Switzerland.

The overall men's team M30+ Pentathlon competition again saw Russia in the first place (Perevayuka, Zhulov, Khakimov and Astashov, 4044 Points) followed by Estonia (Rain Raidna, Raul Raidna, Markus Andresson, Kaido Koppel, 3986 points) and Germany (Sebastian Dietz, Thomas Hansel, Peter Engerisser, Matthias Dahlem, 3975 Points).

The F30+ Tetrathlon saw Belinda Schreiber from Switzerland in first place with 1033 points, followed by Beata Simoka (Hungary, 902 points) and Rita Pal (Hungary, 869 points).

The F40+ Tetrathlon competition was won by Kerstin Schley (Germany, 847 points), second place went to Christine Stalder from Switzerland (711 points) and third to Judit Pences from Hungary (257 points).

The F50+ Tetrathlon had a gold medal for Kathrine Conrad of Denmark (883 points), a silver medal for Barbara Oettinger (Germany, 720 points) and a bronze medal for Zsuzsa Kovacs from Hungary (660 points).

Men's Tetrathlon M40+ saw no less than 15 starters. This strong competition was won by Malte Grosse from Germany (1017 points), followed by Aleksander Turkevich from Russia (1015 points) and Laszlo Rajszki from Hungary (975 points).

The M50+ Tetrathlon provided a gold medal to Valeriy Filatov (Russia), silver to Jeroen Oosthof (Netherlands) and bronze to Mihail Constatinov (Moldova).

The M60+ saw Enn Jaigma (EST) finishing first, Lajos Fazekas (GBR) second and Horst Bebbler (GER) third.

The most amazing as well as admirable competition however was the Tetrathlon M70+. Six athletes competed there, among them 73 years old Howard Simmons from Canada and 70 years old Guillermo Ledezma from Panama. This competition was won by the amazing 78 years old Erik Pock from Denmark (with unbelievable 1037 points). Erik the same day, as planned, had resigned from his post as masters chairman. Second was 75 year old Tibor Pinter from Austria (979 points). The next places were fought out in the closest competition our sports had ever seen. Unbelievable Roger Menck from Germany (who only has 30% sight on one eye, zero on the other) shot zero points, but won the complete Tetrathlon fencing pool 50+,60+,70+ with unbelievable 25 victories of 36 bouts. He overall finished with exactly the same score, as Germany's Peter Baneth: both held 912 points. Roger however won the bronze medal because of his faster running time.

The whole event closed with the final winners ceremonies on Saturday evening and an impressing appeal from UIPM president Dr. h.c. Klaus Schormann, promising the masters movement will have all future support from UIPM that is needed to play it's adequate role within the worldwide Pentathlon community.