Looking forward to who will be crowned the world athletes of the year

With memories of the IAAF World Championships, Beijing 2015 still fresh, this is the time of year to look back on another great season of athletics.

The IAAF Diamond League has reached its climax, so too has the IAAF World Challenge, IAAF Combined Events Challenge, IAAF Hammer Throw Challenge and IAAF Race Walking Challenge. It has truly been another spectacular year of athletics.

The beginning of October will mark the opening of the voting process for the 2015 World Athletes of the Year.

A long list of nine men and nine women – one from each of the following categories: sprints, hurdles, middle and long distance, road running, race walking, jumps, throws, combined events and multi-terrain – will firstly be selected by the IAAF Family between the 5 and 25 October.

The IAAF Family comprises IAAF & IAF Council members, IAAF national member federations, IAAF Committee and Commission members, IAAF meeting directors, IAAF athlete ambassadors, athletes’ representatives, top athletes, members of the international press, IAAF staff members and the IAAF’s official partners.

An international panel of 10 experts will then select the finalists – three men and three women – before the Council of the International Athletics Foundation (IAF) selects the male and female World Athletes of the Year.

The announcement of the winners will take place live on stage during a special ceremony in Monaco at the IAF World Athletics Gala on Saturday 28 November.

SEB COE MAKES FIRST TRIP TO MEET IAAF FEDERATIONS

During his recent visit to the Congress of the Association of Balkan Athletics Federations (ABAF) in Vrsac, Serbia, IAAF President Seb Coe took the opportunity to update the Member Federations present about his first three weeks in office as IAAF President as well as to commend the ABAF, led by President Dobromir Karamarinov, on its dynamic efforts to create new competition opportunities.

Joined in Vrsac by Sergey Bubka, who will be confirmed by IAAF Council in November as IAAF Senior Vice President, and the President of the European Athletics Association Svein Arne Hansen, President Coe underlined that work is already well underway in evaluating the current resources and structures of the head office, but also emphasised the importance of ensuring that every action and project by the IAAF provides some benefit for the Member Federations and the athletes who they develop.

“The careful process of studying the terms of reference for the IAAF Commissions has now begun and a revamped list
of new IAAF Commissions will be finalised by November,” said Coe.

“But hearing the discussions in Vrsac underlines the importance of creating great events in our sport, and I want to use this occasion to announce the creation of a working group to analyse and reform the one-day meeting circuit. This working group will be chaired by Rajne Soderberg, former Meeting Director of the IAAF Diamond League meeting in Stockholm and a member of the IAAF Competition Commission, supported by my IAAF Council Colleague Anna Riccardi, athlete representatives Ricky Simms and Stina Funke, Brussels Diamond League Meeting Director Wilfried Meert and former Competitions Director of the European Association Luciano Barra.

“I am confident that this group will work energetically and creatively to come up with ideas to revitalise the one-day meetings in a way that adds value to the sport’s stakeholders.

“I am also looking forward to announcing soon the full composition of two more working groups which will study two other urgent priorities which is the harmonisation of the international athletics calendar and the ‘World Athletics Series’ renovation project that began in 2014.”

President Coe concluded his trip to Serbia by meeting the country’s Prime Minister Aleksandr Vucic and visiting a new indoor training facility in Belgrade.

“I have been very impressed by the work of the Serbian Athletics Federation President Veselin Jevrosimovic and his team because they are creating an environment which aims to create the infrastructures, the human resources and the awareness which will allow athletics to flourish,” said Coe. “They have also engaged with the Serbian government who have seen how athletics is not just a vehicle for elite achievement but can help them reach national health and education targets.”

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**PARTNERSHIP NEWS**

**IAAF statement on the reduction of sanction for Liliya Shobukhova**

**IAAF statement in response to Sunday Times article on a study conducted at the 2011 World Championships in Daegu**

**Latest success of IAAF re-testing strategy reveals 32 more adverse findings from Helsinki 2005 and Osaka 2007**

**Professor Ljungqvist believes allegations against IAAF are “highly unfair”**

**IAAF warmly welcomes WADA statement concerning Blood Data**

**Statement: IAAF strongly rejects anti-doping allegations**

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**FEATURED NEWS**

**Seb Coe – IAAF: “Athlete centred and here to serve its member federations”**

Newly elected IAAF President Sebastian Coe met the entire IAAF HQ staff in Monaco. The gathering took place at the association’s new offices which are situated on Quai Antoine, Port Hercules, Monaco.

**Lamine Diack: “The World Championships have been wonderful... Thank you China!”**

The concluding joint IAAF and Local Organising Committee (LOC) press conference at the IAAF World Championships, Beijing 2015 took place before the start of the last day of athletics in the Bird’s Nest stadium.

**IAAF Council and Congress, Beijing, China, August 2015 – NOTES**

**Council**

**Congress day 1**

**Congress day 2**

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**FOR THE RECORD**

**ATHLETES SANCTIONED FOR A DOPING OFFENCE**

An up-to-date list can be downloaded here.

**TRANSFERS OF ALLEGIANCE**

An up-to-date list can be downloaded here.
NEW MEMBER FEDERATION OFFICERS – RECENT ELECTIONS / APPOINTMENTS

An up-to-date list can be downloaded [here].

WORLD RECORDS RATIFIED

Men’s decathlon
9045 Ashton Eaton (USA) Beijing, CHN 28-29 Aug 2015
[10.23 (-0.4), 7.88m (0.0), 14.52m, 2.01m, 45.00 WDB, 13.89 (-0.2), 43.34m, 5.20m, 63.63m, 4:17.52]
Previous best: 9039 Ashton Eaton (USA) Eugene, USA 22-23 Jun 2012
[10.21 (0.4), 8.23m (0.8), 14.20m, 2.05m, 46.70, 13.70 (-0.8), 42.81m, 5.30m, 58.87m, 4:14.48]

Women’s hammer throw
81.08m Anita Wlodarczyk (POL) Cetniewo, POL 1 Aug 2015
Previous best: 79.58m Anita Wlodarczyk (POL) Berlin, GER 31 Aug 2014

Women’s 1500m
3:50.07 Genzebe Dibaba (ETH) Monaco, MON 17 Jul 2015
Previous: 3:50.46 Qu Yunxia (CHN) Beijing, CHN 11 Sep 1993

OBITUARIES

• Polish sprints coach Gerard Mach
• Athletics tour operator Graham Botley

To contribute to the IAAF website or newsletter, please contact editor@iaaf.org