

THE GALAS

1986 - 2014

1986

It was the most glittering night of the year in athletics. The venue, for the first World Athletics Gala offered by the newly formed International Athletic Foundation, was the palatial Hotel de Paris. Bringing together 200 members of the athletics family – athletes, officials, press, television and sponsors – it was an opportune moment to launch a series of projects to celebrate the 75-year anniversary of the International Amateur Athletics Federation. The evening was honoured by the presence of the International Athletic Foundation's Honorary President SAS Prince Albert of Monaco. Prestigious new awards – the “Gold Star of Athletics” – were presented to all athletes who broke world records in 1986, and special awards were given to those who made a significant contribution to the season.

This huge commemoration also included the reference of the 75th Anniversary of the IAAF. With the staging of various activities throughout the year, and the support of a number of celebratory projects, the foundation found a way to involve the entire athletics family in the occasion. A special logo was created to link all the 75-year anniversary projects, and this same logo went on to be adopted as that of the International Athletics Foundation (project 1987.1.1) as well as the printing of a book going through all the major achievement of our sport since the creation of the IAAF in 1912. Writers from all around the world were commissioned to write about a selection of ‘100 Golden Moments’ (project 1987.1.4).

1987

The prestigious Sporting Club of Monaco was the venue for the 1987 World Athletics Gala, with the attendance of 40 top athletes and more than 300 guests representing all branches of the world athletics family. This spectacular evening brought to a perfect conclusion the momentous ‘Year of Athletics’ – a year in which the IAAF celebrated its 75-year anniversary.

1988

The World Athletics Gala was held in the Salle des Etoiles at the Sporting Club of Monaco. 350 people and 38 top athletes attended the gala. ‘Gold Star of Athletics’ awards were presented by Dr Primo Nebiolo, President of IAF and IAAF, and HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, IAF Honorary President. Awards were given to the world record-breakers of 1988 and to the Olympic champions of Seoul 1988, as well as to the men's and women's 4x400m gold medallists from Seoul (Trophée l'Equipe Magazine).

Athletes of the year: Carl Lewis (USA) and Florence Griffith-Joyner (USA)

1989

The prestigious 1989 World Athletics Gala was held in the Sporting Club of Monte-Carlo with a world-wide cross section of the IAAF family in attendance, totalling 242 people. As in previous years, the Gold Star of Athletics awards were presented to the world's leading athletes by HSH Prince Albert and IAF President, Dr Primo Nebiolo. More than 40 representatives of the written press were present and reports were published in several European and American newspapers and magazines. Substantial local interest was also shown and local journalists attended both the photo-call and the press conference.

Athletes of the year: Roger Kingdom (USA) and Anna Quirot (CUB)

1990

For the first time the venue of the 1990 Gala, held on 6 December, was the Loews Hotel (today the Fairmont Hotel). As in previous years, HSH Prince Albert and Dr Primo Nebiolo presented the Gold Stars of Athletics awards. The gala was broadcasted by 23 companies. For the first time, the gala had a live television audience.

Athletes of the year: Steve Backley (GBR) and Merlene Ottey (JAM)

1991

Sixty-four athletes – comprising world champions, world record-breakers and the overall IAAF/Mobil Grand Prix winners for 1991 – were qualified to participate in this glittering celebration. Many of them were present and personally awarded with the IAF Gold Star of Athletics.

Athletes of the year: Carl Lewis (USA) and Katrin Krabbe (GER)

1992

In the presence of their Majesties King Carl Gustav XVI and Queen Sylvia of Sweden, and His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco, the 1992 gala was held in Stockholm Town Hall, honouring the city where the IAAF was founded 80 years earlier, in 1912. 600 guests attended the event. The prestigious venue for the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremonies provided the magical setting for the annual celebration of athletics excellence. The occasion also closed the 80-year jubilee. Great athletics names of the past mingled with 20 Olympic champions from Barcelona and five world record-breakers of 1992.

Athletes of the year: Kevin Young (USA) and Heike Henkel (GER)

1993

In the presence of HSH Prince Albert and Dr Primo Nebiolo, the 1993 gala was held in the Salle des Etoiles with 300 guests attending it. Fifteen world champions, two world record-breakers and 67 journalists were present. It was the occasion to honour, in particular, the outstanding success of the 4th IAAF World Championships in Stuttgart. Tele Monte Carlo, Monaco's Italian Language television station, broadcasted the event.

Athletes of the year: Colin Jackson (GBR) and Sally Gunnel (GBR)

1994

The 1994 World Athletics Gala, in association with Coca-Cola, was held in the Salle des Etoiles with the presence of HSH Prince Albert and Dr Primo Nebiolo. It was a great success with more than 300 guests.

Dr Nebiolo thanked the Principality of Monaco and the Coca-Cola Company, adding that "this vote honours all the world's great athletes who animate our movement; with the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona, the World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden and the IAAF/Mobil Grand Prix Final here in Monaco, we may truly call 1995 'The Year of Athletics'."

Athletes of the year: Noureddine Morceli (ALG) and Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)

1995

The 10th Annual World Athletics Gala focused special attention on the World Championships held in Göteborg earlier in the year. A new "Athletics Legend" award was introduced in 1995 for athletes who exemplified success and courage on and off the track and was presented to Ana Quirot and Sergey Bubka. Coca-Cola provided sponsorship for the second consecutive year.

Athletes of the year: Jonathan Edwards (GBR) and Gwen Torrence (USA)

1996

The 11th World Athletics Gala was held in the Salle des Etoiles in Monaco. 550 guests attended an occasion meant to celebrate the foundation's 10th anniversary (1986-1996), as well as the IAAF exceptional humanitarian mission to Sarajevo for the International Meeting of Solidarity.

This was a great year for athletics, looking back on the season with pride and emotion. For the first time, the Compagnie Monégasque de Banque and ISL Marketing provided vital financial support.

Athletes of the year: Svetlana Masterkova (RUS) and Michael Johnson (USA)

1997

The foundation decided to use the 1997 World Athletics Gala to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Grimaldi Dynasty in Monaco. More than 500 guests attended the Gala, sponsored by ISL, CMB and MONDO. Tenor Andrea Boccelli gave a stirring performance at the gala.

Athletes of the year: Wilson Kipketer (DEN) and Marion Jones (USA)

1998

The 1998 World Athletics Gala was held in the Salle des Etoiles of Monte-Carlo, and was one of the most spectacular and dynamic editions of the Oscar-like ceremony in foundation history. The gala looked back at the outstanding moments of the 1998 athletics season, bringing together current and past stars. One of the most touching moments of the evening featured a posthumous homage to Florence Griffith-Joyner, in the presence of her husband and daughter, with a special film tribute by the renowned Olympic director Bud Greenspan. Spanish dancer Sara Baras and her ballet gave a stunning performance of modern flamenco during the gala evening.

Athletes of the year: Haile Gebrselassie (ETH) and Marion Jones (USA)

1999

The 1999 Gala was entitled '*A Century of Athletics Excellence*'. The gala programme itself was substantially dedicated to a commemoration of Dr Nebiolo's life, who passed away few weeks before, in addition to the usual celebration of the bright moments of this year in athletics, as well as great athletes who indelibly marked 1999. The IAF associated itself to the cause of the '*Universal Day of Children's Rights*'. The gala named and celebrated the two 'athletes of the century': Carl Lewis and Fanny Blankers-Koen.

Athletes of the year: Michael Johnson (USA) and Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

2000

In the Presence of HSH Prince Albert of Monaco and many dignitaries and guests, the gala was held in the Salle des Etoiles of the Sporting Club of Monaco. About 550 guests attended. The day before, the Edmonton LOC presented its special evening in the Salle Garnier, featuring a musical performance by the Canadian group Barrage. The TV production covered a large part of the gala evening and as a result of the IAAF agreements, EBU contributed to 50% of the productions costs, representing a significant saving in the overall cost of the gala. The Compagnie Monégasque de Banque and MONDO were the other partners of the gala.

Athlete of the year: Jan Zelezny (CZE)

2001

On the eve of the gala, the two sponsors (Mondo and CMB) offered an official dinner with the possibility for the guests to watch an extract of the official film of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Famous Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour warmed up the Salle des Etoiles accompanied by his 16 musicians.

A special trophy was given to Michael Johnson who had retired that year. EBU acted as host broadcaster.

Athletes of the year: Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR) and Stacy Dragila (USA)

2002

In the presence of HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, Honorary President of the Foundation, and Mr Lamine Diack IAF and IAAF President, the 2002 gala was held as usual in the Salle des Etoiles of Monte-Carlo. This edition was a great success with more than 650 guests attending it. Special trophies were also awarded to former athletes. Once again, Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour and his band entertained the gala evening.

Athletes of the year: Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR) and Paula Radcliffe (GBR)

2003

In the presence of HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, Honorary President of the Foundation and Mr Lamine Diack IAF and IAAF President, the 2003 gala was held for the first time within the Grimaldi Forum.

This edition was a great success with more than 900 guests, including the athletes who competed at the IAAF World Athletics Final. Singer Danni Minogue performed during the evening. CMB, Mondo and EBU were once again sponsors of this 18th edition.

Athletes of the year: Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR) and Hestrie Cloete (RSA)

2004

In the presence of HSH Prince Albert and IAF/IAAF President Lamine Diack the 2004 gala was held in the Salle des Princes of the Grimaldi Forum. Singer Salif Keita and his group provided the entertainment. The dinner was held in the Salon d'Or of the Monte Carlo Grand Hotel with 947 guests attending.

CMB and Mondo sponsored the event and EBU contributed to the TV production costs. Several athletes received a special award on stage.

Athletes of the year: Kenenisa Bekele (ETH) and Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)

2005

In the presence of HAS Prince Albert and IAF/IAAF President Lamine Diack, the 20th edition of the gala was held on Saturday 10 September in the Salon d'Or of the Fairmont Hotel. Almost 900 guests attended this event including nearly 350 athletes who were on site on the occasion of the World Athletics Final. The gala was entertained by the 'Groupe Kassav' from Martinique, whose performance was most appreciated by the guests.

Athletes of the year: Kenenisa Bekele (ETH) and Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)

Lifetime achievement award: Lasse Viren (FIN)

Distinguished career award: Wilson Kipketer (DEN)

Performances of the year: Justin Gatlin (USA) and Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)

Rising star award: Harry Aikines-Aryeetey (GBR)

Rashid Ramzi (BRN) received a special award for accomplishing the first men's 800m and 1500m double at an IAAF World Championships.

2006

The 2006 World Athletics Gala was held on Sunday 12 November in the prestigious Salle des Etoiles of the Sporting Club with the attendance of HSH Prince Albert II de Monaco and 650 guests. South African singer Miriam Makeba and her musicians entertained the evening.

Athletes of the year: Asafa Powell (JAM) and Sanya Richards (USA)

Distinguished career award: Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR), Stefka Kostadinova (BUL) and Jan Zelezny (CZE)

Male performance of the year: Liu Xiang (CHN) – 110m hurdles world record

Female performance of the year: Meseret Defar (ETH) – 5000m world record

Rising star award: Margus Hunt (EST)

Coach of the year award: Woldemeskel Kostre (ETH)

2007

The gala was held, once again, in the 'Salle des Etoiles' with 700 guests in attendance. Cuban orchestra 'Aragon' entertained the gala. A book on Osaka 2007 as well as a CD of 'Aragon Orquesta' was distributed to all the guests at the end of the gala.

Athletes of the year: Tyson Gay (USA) and Meseret Defar (ETH)

Hero of athletics: Carl Lewis (USA)

Performances of the year: Asafa Powell (JAM) and Blanka Vlasic (CRO)

Inspirational awards: Haile Gebrselassie (ETH) and Paula Radcliffe (GBR)

Newcomer of the year: Donald Thomas (BAH)

Rising star award: Ruth Bisibori Nyangau (KEN)

Coach of the year award: Vitali Petrov (RUS)

President Diack also handed over the Golden Order of Merit to Amadeo Francis (past IAAF Vice President and member of the Foundation's Council) as well as the Silver Order of Merit to Jamal Simohamed (past IAAF Council Member).

2008

The 2008 gala was held on Sunday 23 November in the Salle des Etoiles of the Sporting Club. More than 600 guests attended this prestigious evening. Entertainment was provided by Fab 5 from Jamaica and Lalah Hathaway from California. An exhibition commemorating the 80 years of the first participation of Women in the Olympic Games was displayed all along the lobby of the Fairmont and a commemorative plaque remembering the first international competition for women in 1921 was unveiled by HSH Prince Albert II and President Lamine Diack in the garden of the casino.

Athletes of the year: Usain Bolt (JAM) and Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)

Performances of the year: Dayron Robles (CUB), Liu Xiang (CHN), Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH) and Barbora Spotakova (CZE)

Revelation of the year award: Pamela Jelimo (KEN)

Distinguished career award: Kajsa Bergqvist (SWE), Stefan Holm (SWE) and Jefferson Pérez (ECU)

Inspirational award: Henry Rono (KEN)

80 years of women at the Olympics: Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)

Special Olympic awards: Usain Bolt (JAM), Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH), Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS), Françoise Mbango (CMR), Angelo Taylor (USA) and Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR)

2009

In the presence of HSH Prince Albert II and IAF/IAAF President Lamine Diack, the 2009 gala was held on Sunday 22 November in the Salle des Etoiles of the Sporting Club with the attendance of about 600 guests. Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour and his musicians performed during the evening. Charmaine Crooks and Marc Maury were the presenters of the gala show. Sponsors CMB and Mondo participated also to the success of this event.

Athletes of the year: Usain Bolt (JAM) and Sanya Richards (USA)

2010

As for the past years, the 2010 gala took place in the Salle des Etoiles of the Sporting Club in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II and IAF/IAAF President Diack. 631 people attended the gala. French Caribbean Group Kassav performed during the evening. Once again Mondo and the CMB contributed to the gala.

Athletes of the year: David Rudisha (KEN) and Blanka Vlasic (CRO)

2011

The gala was held on Saturday 12 November in the Salle des Etoiles of the Monte Carlo Sporting Club and was attended by 621 people. The show featured New York band Orquesta Broadway. The other awards went to John Velzian for his life-long career as a coach and Alain Billouin for his journalist career. The athletes of the year each received a Waterford Crystal trophy.

Athletes of the year: Usain Bolt (JAM) and Sally Pearson (AUS)

2012

The gala was the key point of the IAAF's 100 Year Anniversary, organised by the IAAF and the city of Barcelona. The athletes of the year awards ceremony was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Pullman Skipper Hotel in Barcelona, ahead of the evening's IAAF Centenary Gala Show in the MNAC Museum. The awards were hosted by the International Athletic Foundation (IAF) Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and IAF & IAAF President Lamine Diack.

The spectacular IAAF Centenary Gala show was the highlight of a momentous year of celebrations which have marked the IAAF Centenary. The night coordinated on stage by Britain's Jonathan Edwards and Catalan actress Judith Masco. The two-hour show took place in front of an audience of about 800 guests which included IAF Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II, IOC members, members of the world athletics family and representatives of other international federations as well as dignitaries from Spanish sport and politics. Joining them were about 200 champions from the London Olympic Games in 2012 and 1948, who were treated to an array of music and dance performances and inspirational videos commemorating 100 years. The IAAF Hall of Fame was officially inaugurated with the induction of the first 24 members.

Athletes of the year: Usain Bolt (JAM) and Allyson Felix (USA)

Performances of the year: David Rudisha (KEN) and US women's 4x100m team

Inspirational award: Aries Merritt (USA)

Masters athletes of the year: Robert Lida (USA) and Lyn Ventris (AUS)

Rising stars: Keshorn Walcott (TTO) and Anthonique Strachan (BAH)

Coaching lifetime achievement award: Glen Mills (JAM)

World journalist award: Elias Makori (KEN)

IAAF Hall of Fame inductees: Iolanda Balas (ROM), Abebe Bikila (ETH), Fanny Blankers-Koen (NED), Sergey Bubka (UKR), Sebastian Coe (GBR), Betty Cuthbert (AUS), Adhemar da Silva (BRA), Mildred 'Babe' Didriksen (USA), Vladimir Golubnichiy (URS), Michael Johnson (USA), Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA), Alberto Juantorena (CUB), Wang Junxia (CHN), Kipchoge Keino (KEN), Stefka Kostadinova (BUL), Carl Lewis (USA), Edwin Moses (USA), Paavo Nurmi (FIN), Dan O'Brien (USA), Al Oerter (USA), Jesse Owens (USA), Peter Snell (NZL), Irena Szewinska (POL), Emil Zatopek (TCH)

2013

After the 2012 edition in Barcelona, which was the celebration of 100 years of the IAAF, the gala returned to Monaco and was held on Saturday 16 November in the Salle des Etoiles of the Sporting Club in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II. The athletes of the year and the winners from the World Championships in Moscow were honoured at the gala.

Athletes of the year: Usain Bolt (JAM) and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (JAM)

Lifetime achievement award: Dwight Phillips (USA) and Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)

Rising star: Mary Cain (USA)

Coaches award: Alberto Salazar (USA)

World journalist award: Gianni Merlo (ITA)

World masters athletes of the year: Charles Allie (USA) and Christa Bortignon (CAN)

IAAF Hall of Fame inductees: Harrison Dillard (USA), Marjorie Jackson (AUS), Hannes Kolehmainen (FIN), Nataliya Lisovskaya (URS), Svetlana Masterkova (RUS), Noureddine Morceli (ALG), Parry O'Brien (USA), Marie-José Pérec (FRA), Viktor Saneyev (URS), Yuriy Sedykh (URS), Daley Thompson (GBR), Grete Waitz (NOR)

2014

The 2014 World Athletics Gala took place on Friday 21 November, for the first time in its existence at the Chapiteau de Fontvieille in Monaco, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II and IAF/IAAF President Lamine Diack. 669 guests attended the gala and were entertained by Sylvano Vittorioso and his band. The gala was once again sponsored by CMB and Mondo.

Athletes of the year: Valerie Adams (NZL) and Renaud Lavillenie (FRA)

Rising star awards: Wilhem Belocian (FRA) and Morgan Lake (GBR)

Coaching achievement award: Tom Tellez (USA)

World journalist award: Marc Ventouillac (FRA)

Masters athletes of the year: Guido Muller (GER) and Lavinia Petrie (AUS)

Women in athletics award: Evie Garrett Dennis (USA)

Distinguished career: Virgilijus Alekna (LTU)

IAAF Hall of Fame inductees: Valeriy Brumel (URS), Glenn Davis (USA), Heike Dreschler (GER), Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR), Marita Koch (GDR), Robert Korzeniowski (POL), Janis Lysis (URS), Bob Mathias (USA), Wilma Rudolph (USA), Shirley Strickland de la Hunty (AUS), Lasse Viren (FIN), Cornelius Warmerdam (USA)