

Ture Widlund

*5th August 1934

†2nd August 2018

By Ove Karlsson

The Swede Ture Widlund, a founding member of the ISOH, died three days short of 84 years. Illness limited his activities in the last years, but he never gave up following the Olympic Movement in general and the Games in particular.

In the 1980s, the idea of forming an Olympic historical society was the subject of extensive correspondence among historians concerned. Bill Mallon (USA) wrote: "Credit for the idea should primarily be assigned to the Swede Ture Widlund, with whom I discussed this multiple times in letters."

Mallon and Widlund laid the groundwork for what was to be the ISOH, and were two out of seven Olympic historians present when the society was formally founded in London on 5th December 1991.



Ture was Vice-President until 1996 and named an Honorary Member in 2011. He was a frequent contributor to the *Journal of Olympic History* (before 1997 called *Citius, Altius, Fortius*); also compiling the index of articles in volumes 1–14 (published in the first issue every year).

In the 1960s, Widlund set up his working table in a room previously used by J. Sigfrid Edström, IOC President from 1942 to 1952. Interested in sports since an early age, this inspired Ture to 'ig' into Olympic history. His knowledge and accuracy were widely certified characteristics.

The early Games in the modern Olympic era were dear subjects to Ture, an internationally well-known and recognised Olympic historian and sports statistician from the 1980s.

With Mallon, Widlund compiled books (*Results for All Competitors in All Events, with Commentary*) on the 1896 and 1912 Games. Widlund also contributed to Mallon's books on the Games in 1900, 1904, 1906 and 1908.

Ture Widlund was the initiator of the Swedish Society for Olympic history, and its first chairman (1986–2000), and later was named its honorary chairman.

He also represented the society in the Swedish Olympic Academy from its foundation in 1989 until 2000.

Weightlifting was Ture's favourite sport, and in the late 1980s he compiled the book *Weightlifting at the Olympic Games 1896–1988*, which was one of Ture Widlund's many valuable contributions to the documentation of Olympic history.

His status in the field of Olympic history lives on in the success of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

Obituaries

Hans Günter Winkler (FRG), *24 July 1926 in Wuppertal-Barmen; †9 July 2018 in Warendorf. Winkler was the most successful show jumper. He took part in six Olympic Games, from 1956 to 1976, winning five times gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

He became a legend at the Olympic Equestrian Games in 1956 in Stockholm when, despite a painful groin strain, he won the individual classification ahead of the Italian brothers Raimondo and Piero D'Inzeo. His mare, "Halla", carried him as if on a blind flight in the second round over the barriers without a mistake. On



"Halla" Winkler also became world champion in 1954 and 1955. In his long career, from 1952 to 1984, he had no fewer than 105 national prizes –

41 as a winner. In 1957, he also became European champion riding "Sonnenglanz".

Winkler spent his youth in Dortmund and Frankfurt, where his father was employed as a riding instructor. He was an anti-aircraft assistant in the Second World War. From 1948 he trained as a salesman, and with his salary was able to purchase his first horse.

Through the agency of a trainer he was employed by the US military administration as stable lad and assistant riding instructor. For two years he instructed officers in dressage in Kronberg/Taunus. He was even allowed to accompany the military governor and later US President Dwight D. Eisenhower on a ride.

In 1950 the Deutsche Olympiade-Komitee (DOKR) became aware of Winkler. With 'Halla' he prepared for the Three-Day-Event at the 1952 Olympics, for which the nervous mare, however, showed no talent. Besides his nomination for Helsinki failed because of his former activity as an assistant riding instructor, so that he had to wait till 1954 before once again being declared an amateur.

His intention to take part in his seventh Olympic Games in 1980 in Moscow failed due to the boycott, which the NOC for Germany had joined. However, Winkler continued to ride. At the Games of 1988 he was team leader of the West German riders and in 1992 as Federal coach he prepared the show jumpers for Barcelona.

Winkler was a successful businessman. He was the representative of a pharmaceutical firm and from 1993 a US mail-order company. In 1991 he founded an event-firm with the abbreviation of his name: "HGW". He was married four times – the last time to American Debby Malloy, 33 years younger. Unfortunately, she lost her life in a riding accident in 2011. (*JOH*, Vol. 24, No. 2/2016, pp. 54–62) (*VK*)

László Fábíán (HUN), *10 July 1936 in Budapest; †10 August 2018 in Budapest. Fábíán's father was a baker who started training him as a young man. After he started kayaking at the early age of 15, his coach suggested he join János Urányi in the K2. The pair proved to be successful and, at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, they won the K2 10,000 m – the first Hungarian Olympic title in kayaking. He then won four Worlds and six European titles between 1958–66. At the 1958 Flatwater World Championships, he won the K2 10 km (with Urányi), the 1963 K2 10 km (with István Timár-Geng), the 1963 K4 1000 m, and the 1966 K2 10 km, alongside Imre Szöllösi.

Fábíán finished active racing in 1969, and then became a technical manager and trainer at Újpesti Dózsa. He worked in the management of the Hungarian Kayak Canoe Association. In 1997 he became the head coach of MTK. (*RL/WR*)

Viktor Nikolaevich Tyumenev (URS), *1 June 1957 in Moscow; †2 August 2018 Moscow. Tyumenev began his hockey career with Krylya Sovetov Moskva in 1975 and helped win the European champions Cup title. In 1980 he joined Spartak Moskva and played there until 1989. He then played in Finland, playing with TPS Turku, KalPa Kuopio, KooKoo Kouvola and SaPKo Savonlinna, before finishing his playing career with CSKA Moskva from 1997–98 and again Krylya Sovetov Moskva in 1998–99.

Internationally, besides his 1984 Olympic gold, Tyumenev was world champion three times (1982, 1986, 1990) and European champion three times (1982, 1985, 1986). He also won bronze at the 1985 World Championships and silver at the 1990 European Championships. Tyumenev scored 15 goals in 94 national team appearances.

He also played on the winning 1979 Challenge Cup team between the Soviet Union and NHL stars. (*TK*)

Valentina Rastvorova (URS), *17 June 1933 in Odessa; †24 August 2018 in Moscow. Ukrainian-born Russian foil fencer participated in three consecutive Olympic Games from 1956 to 1964. She claimed an individual silver medal in 1960 and team gold the same year. Four years later she got another silver with the team. At World Championships she won six gold and two silver medals.

She was married to water polo player Boris Grishin, whose his team took third in the 1964 Olympics and second in 1968. Their children, including Yevgeni and Yelena, also took part in the Olympic Games. Yevgeni played on the water polo team that

won gold in 1980 and bronze in 1988. Yelena was a member of her fencing team with fourth places in the épée in 1988 and 1992.

Valentina graduated from the Russian State University of Physical Education, Sport, Youth and Tourism. Later she worked as a fencing coach in Moscow. (*WR*)

Yelena Shushunova (URS), *23 May 1969 in Leningrad; †16 August 2018 in St. Petersburg. Shushunova took up gymnastics at the age of six and made the national team in 1984, just in time for the 1984 Olympics. When the Soviets boycotted the 1984 Olympics, Shushunova was denied a chance to win her first Olympic medals. Instead Shushunova competed at the Friendship Games, where she won gold in the team event and bronze in individual all-around.

In 1985 Shushunova established herself as one of the top gymnasts of the era, by winning three golds (individual all-around, vault and team event), floor exercise silver and balance beam bronze at the 1985 World Championships and four golds (individual all-around, vault, uneven bars and floor exercise) and balance beam bronze at the 1985 European Championships. In 1986, she won the individual all-around, vault, uneven bars and floor exercise at the World Cup. At the 1987 World Championships she won the vault and floor exercise titles, individual all-around, balance beam and team event silvers and uneven bars bronze, but was not as successful at the 1987 European Championships, winning only the vault title and individual all-around bronze.

Finally in 1988, at the age of 29, she got the chance to compete at the Olympics, winning the individual all-around and team event titles, silver on balance beam and bronze on uneven bars, retiring after Seoul. Shushunova and Lyudmila Turishcheva are the only two female gymnasts to have won the grand

