

The Biographies of all IOC Members

Part XXV

By Philip Barker and Volker Kluge



408. | Olegario Vázquez Raña | Mexico

Born: 10 December
1935, Mexico City

Co-opted:
17 June 1995,
Replacing Pedro
Ramírez Vázquez
Resigned:
31 December 2015
Honorary Member
since 2016
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 24,
Absent 1



The younger brother of fellow IOC Member, Mario Vázquez Raña (*JOH*, Vol. 24, No. 3, 2016, p. 66) Olegario began his shooting career in 1956. He was a member of the Mexican team at four Olympics (1964–1976), five World Championships (1966–1979), five Pan-American Games (1963–1979), two Championships of the Americas (1973 and 1977), and five Central American and Caribbean Games (1962–1978). In 1973, he set a world record of 392 points in the 10 m air rifle match. Two years later he improved his own world record at the Pan-American Games in Mexico by one shot.

Olegario Vázquez Raña moved into sports administration whilst still a competitive sportsman. He became President of the Mexican Shooting Federation in 1975 and remained in office until 1992. In 1980, he was elected President of the International Shooting Union, now known as the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). During his time in charge women were admitted in their own right. He also oversaw the introduction of air rifle and air pistol shooting, and in shotgun, the introduction of a double trap event. The introduction of electronic targets and live television coverage of the finals at the 1992 Olympics helped make shooting an improved spectacle for spectators and television viewers.

The Vázquez brothers were the sons of Galician immigrants and made their fortune by founding the popular furniture store Hermanos. Between them, they ruled over a gigantic economic empire. Olegario became Chairman of the Board and principal shareholder of Grupo Empresarial Angeles, a holding company with 26,000 employees. In addition to Hermanos, the group owned 20 hospitals and clinics, more than 70 restaurants, 20 luxury hotels, a finance company and a media group, as well as a chain of private schools.

When in 2015, he reached the age limit of 80, he was obliged to stand down from the IOC in 2015. The following year later he passed the leadership of the family business to his son, Olegario Vázquez Aldir. (VK)

Former Vice-President Kim Un Yong died

According to media reports the former IOC Vice-President Kim Un Yong died on the 3rd October 2017 in Seoul at the age of 86. He was one of the most powerful figures in the IOC, which he joined in 1986. He played an instrumental role in helping Seoul win the right to host the 1988 Summer Olympics. He also served as the founding president of the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) and he was largely responsible for helping taekwondo become an Olympic medal sport in Sydney 2000.

In 2001, Kim waged an unsuccessful campaign for the IOC presidency, losing to Jacques Rogge. In 2004 he was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for bribery and diversion of funds. He pre-empted exclusion from the IOC with a letter to President Rogge announcing his resignation on 9th May 2005. See also *JOH*, Vol. 23, No. 3, p. 70–71. (VK)

409. | Antun Vrdoljak | Croatia

Vrdoljak studied acting at the Zagreb Academy of Dramatic Art. His acting debut came in the 1957 film *It was Not in Vain*. In the late 1960s, he gradually switched to film directing.

When at the end of the 1980s the Croatian wish for greater autonomy became a demand for independence, Vrdoljak was one of the prominent intellectuals who engaged in the moderate Coalition of People's Accord (KNS) on the eve of the free elections in April 1990. He soon turned to Franjo Tuđman's more hardline Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), which won the election with 40 per cent of the vote. Vrdoljak became one of country's six Vice-Presidents and he was entrusted with the supervision of the 1990 European Athletics Championships in Split.

His term of office came to an end after a new Croatian Constitution was accepted in 1990. A few months later, he was appointed to the post of General Manager of Croatian Radio and Television (HRTV). In this position he was able to support Tuđman, who had become a close friend. Vrdoljak became a member of the Supreme State Council and served as a member of the Croatian Parliament for eight years.

In May 1991 the Croats voted for independence from Yugoslavia with 93.2 per cent of the vote in a referendum. Vrdoljak became the first President of the Croatian NOC on its formation. But after the HDZ lost power in 2000, he decided to return to the world of cinema after 13 years. He was one of the directors of *Long Dark Night*, a controversial discussed series about the Second World War in Slavonia. This had its premiere in 2004. The lead was played by his son-in-law, Goran Višnjić, a well-known actor in Croatia. (VK)



Born: 4 June 1931,
Imotok

Co-opted:
17 June 1995
Resigned:
31 December 2011
Honorary Member
since 2012
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 18,
Absent 1

410. | Patrick Joseph Hickey | Ireland

The only Irish judoka to have won his black belt in Japan, Hickey once said that he owed his life to the sport. He represented his country on more than 40 occasions and was elected to its international Hall of Fame.

After his career on the mat, he forged a career as an administrator in the sport and served as President of the Irish Judo Association from 1979 to 1989. He then became Honorary Life President and also served as Treasurer of the European Judo Union. He was inducted into the IJF Hall of Fame.

He built a parallel career in the Olympic world. In 1980 he was elected to the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) as a member of the Executive Committee, and in 1984 became its Vice-President. In 1989 on the recommendation of Ireland's most prominent Olympic official Lord Killanin, Hickey became OCI President. He was re-elected President of the OCI for successive four-year terms, usually unopposed.

In 1994 he became a member of the Executive Board of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and the following year at the IOC Session in Budapest, he was co-opted as a member. He ran for the Executive Board (EB) on four occasions and was finally elected in 2012.

In the meantime he had also become President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC). It was he who commissioned a feasibility study for the European Games in 2006. He was instrumental in ensuring they finally came to fruition in Baku two years ago.



Born: 17 June 1945,
Dublin

Co-opted:
17 June 1995,
Replacing Kevin
O'Flanagan
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 25,
Absent 3

Executive Board
Member No. 92
Elected Member:
26 July 2012 –
4 August 2016
Second term:
Elected Member:
4 August 2016 –
10 September 2017



He was travelled to Rio in 2016 for the Olympic Games. On 17th August, his room was raided during an investigation into alleged illegal resale of Olympic tickets. Hickey was taken into custody. He was eventually allowed his passport back in November 2016 for a bond payment of 410,000 Euros. The following month after the ANOC made him a loan so he could return home to Ireland.

Since his arrest, he had maintained a low profile. On 6th February 2017 he retired as OCI President. The OCI voted unanimously not to allow his return after the ticketing controversy. It has been reported that Hickey signed a contract with THG, the company owned by Marcus Evans at the centre of the scandal until 2026.

He has been "self suspended" from the IOC and all other functions and is not thought to have attended the 2017 Session in Lima. There the IOC announced that he was standing down from the EB "with immediate effect". He had also stood down from the post of EOC President. Although his term was due to end in 2017, he did not seek re-election.

Away from sport, Hickey worked as an estate agent, qualifying at the Institute of Property Valuers. He was the owner of a financial services company. In 2015, his firm, Hickey Auctioneers, was run by his daughter and eldest son. (PB)

411. | Toni Badih Khoury | Lebanon

Born: 26 September 1935, Mazraa, Beirut

Co-opted:
17 June 1995,
Replacing Sheikh
Gabriel Gemayel
Resigned:
31 December 2015
Honorary Member
since 2016
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 25,
Absent 0



Executive Board
Member No. 72
Elected Member:
16 July 2001 –
26 February 2006

The owner of an engineering and contracting company, he played an active role in basketball. From 1964 to 1970, he was Secretary-General of the Lebanese Basketball Federation and became its President in 1970. He continued in the role until 1997. He also founded the Pan-Arab Basketball Confederation in 1974 and served as President until 1978.

Khoury went to the 1964 Olympic Games as a team official and was Chef de Mission at the Summer Games in 1976, 1984 and 1988. He also served as head of delegation from 1992 to 2000 including Winter Games of 1988 and 1994.

Internationally he was General Secretary of the Olympic Council of Asia (1983–1994), Executive Board Member of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC/1996–2010) and he is also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Olympic Truce Foundation (IOTF) from 2005. From 2004 to 2010 he was a member of the Municipal Council of the City of Beirut.

The Lebanese Olympic Committee now have their headquarters in a building named in his honour. (VK)

Instantly recognizable with her blonde hair Věra Čáslavská was one of the greatest gymnasts the world has ever seen. She first appeared on the international stage as a 16 year old at the 1958 World Championships in Moscow, when she was a member of the silver medal winning Czechoslovakian team. Four years later she won world gold in the vault in her home city of Prague. At the 1966 World Championships she led Czechoslovakia to the team title, and individually became "all around" and vault champion. In addition, she was eleven times European champion.

Čáslavská competed at three Olympics in the sixties. In all she won 11 medals (seven gold, four silver), a total exceeded only by her great Soviet rival Larissa Latynina. At the 1964 Games, she won the "all around" title beating Latynina in the process. She also won individual gold in the vault and the beam.

Known as "Věruská" her stellar Olympic career reached its zenith in 1968. Her four gold and two silver medals she made her the most successful competitor in the entire Mexico Games. Twenty-four hours after her last competition, she married Josef Odložil, 1500 m silver medallist from 1964 at the cathedral in Mexico City. The marriage was dissolved in 1987.

Her name is closely linked with the "Prague Spring" of 1968 and the march-in of the troops of the Warsaw Pact, which ended the democratisation process led by KP chief Alexander Dubček. She was among prominent personalities who signed the "Manifesto of the 2000 words" in protest. When she refused to retract her support, she was declared persona non grata. Even so, she was allowed to accept the invitation to attend the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich as guest of honour. In 1974 she was allowed to take up a coaching post with the Sparta Prague sports club. From 1979 to 1981 she trained the Mexican women's national team.

After the 1989 "Velvet Revolution" her rehabilitation was complete. She became an adviser to President Václav Havel, a post she held from 1990 to 1991. She was elected President of the Czechoslovakian NOC in 1990 and, then in 1993, she served as President of the Czech NOC after partition.

In 1995 she was elected an IOC Member. This was on the recommendation of Juan Antonio Samaranch, who wanted to increase female membership into the IOC. But she took part in only two Sessions. Her membership ended in 2001.

By this time her family life was touched by tragedy. Odložil became involved in a fight with his son Martin and died of his injuries. Shortly afterwards Čáslavská suffered from depression and a serious nervous breakdown.

After years of depression she did not appear again in public until 2009. Four years later it became known that she was terminally ill with pancreatic cancer. Czech author Pavel Kosatík produced her authorized biography *Věra Čáslavská – Život na Olympu (Věra Čáslavská – Life on Mount Olympus)* in 2016. See also the obituary in *JOH*, Vol. 24, No. 3/2016, p. 72. (VK)



Born: 3 May 1942,
Prague
Died: 30 August 2016,
Prague

Co-opted:
17 June 1995
Resigned:
31 December 2001
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 2,
Absent 6

Born: 27 November
1935, Omsk

Co-opted:
17 June 1995

Retired:
31 December 1996
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 1,
Absent 0



Born in Siberia, Titov started gymnastics at age of 14. His breakthrough came in 1953 when he placed second in the all-around event at the Soviet All-Union Youth Championships.

Then Titov moved his study of sport to Kiev, where he met his later wife Valeria Kuzmenko (1934–2010). She was a well-known tennis player and a Ladies' Doubles quarter finalist at Wimbledon in 1961. (Her father was the footballer Ivan Kuzmenko, who took part in the "Match of Death" against a German military team on 9th August 1942. He was murdered in a Nazi concentration camp near Kiev.)

From 1955 Titov was a member of the Soviet national team, and became one of the most successful gymnasts in the world. He won no fewer than 21 individual medals, among them eleven gold. From 1956 he competed in three Olympics and won nine medals. In Melbourne he was part of the victorious Soviet team

His most significant individual successes came at the 1962 World Championships in Prague, when he became victor in the all-around event and on the rings. He won eight gold medals at the European Championships, five of these came in Copenhagen in 1959. He ended his competitive international career with team silver at the 1966 World Championships.

After that he worked as a gymnastics official and referee. He has written a number of books, including one about rhythmic gymnastics. He later became head coach of the Soviet team and after four years as a member of the Executive Board of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) he was elected its President in 1976. He was co-opted onto the IOC in 1995 as an ex-officio member representing the International Federations. But he lost his membership after a year, when he was succeeded in 1996 at the 70th FIG Congress in Atlanta by the Italian Bruno Grandi.

After the disappointing performance of the Russian men in Athens in 2004, Titov became President of the Russian Artistic Gymnastics Federation, a position he held for two years. (VK)

The 131st IOC-Session elected eight new Member. Four of them are Individual Members:

Ms. Baklai Temengil, Palau, *23 October 1966,
NOC General Secretary

Mrs. Kristin Kloster Aasen, Norway, *4 January 1961,
NOC 1st Vice-President

Mrs. Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Thailand,
*16 February 1965, President of the Badminton
Association of Thailand

Luis Mejía Oviedo, Dominican Republic,
*4 September 1953, NOC President

Two were elected as representatives of the NOCs:

Neven Ivan Ilić Álvarez, Chile, *4 April 1962,
NOC President

Sheikh Khalid Muhammad Al Zubair, Oman,
*23 November 1970, NOC President

The two others were elected as members representing
an International Federation:

Jean-Christophe Rolland, France, *3 July 1968,
President of the International Rowing Association (FISA)

Ingmar de Vos, Belgium, *5 August 1963, President of
the International Equestrian Federation (FEI)

Gerhard Heiberg (NOR) and **Lee Kun Hee** (KOR) were
elected as IOC Honorary Member.

The former Chair of the IOC Ethics Commissions
Youssoupha Ndiaye (SEN) was granted the status of
IOC Honour Member. As his successor the former UN
General Secretary **Ban Ki Moon** was elected.

(IOC/IOH)

414. | Mustapha Larfaoui | Algeria

Larfaoui was an active water polo player and in 1962 a founder member of the Algerian swimming federation. He served as its President until 1983 and again from 1985 to 1989. He worked in the African Swimming Confederation as Vice-President (1970–1974) and President (1974–2012).

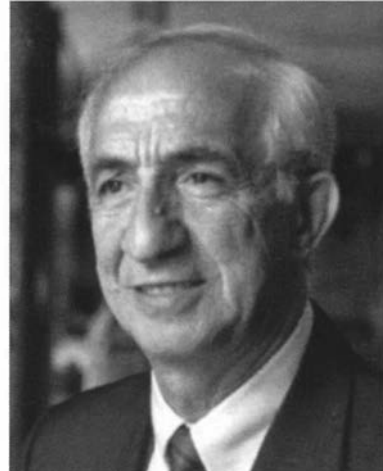
His career in the International Swimming Federation began as member of the FINA Bureau (1972–1976) and then as Vice-President (1976–1988). He succeeded the American Robert H. Helmick as President and held office for 21 years. When he retired in 2009, he was nominated as Honorary Life President.

Larfaoui also played a major role in Algeria's Olympic and Sports Committee. At its foundation in 1963 he was the first General Secretary (until 1967), thereafter Deputy General Secretary (1967–1985), Vice-President (1985–1998) and President (1998–2001).

Juan Antonio Samaranch supported his election to the IOC in 1995 as an International Federation President. Larfaoui worked on various IOC Commissions including the coordination groups for Sydney 2000 (1995–2000) and London 2012 (2005–2010) as well as Marketing (2003–2010). He had also been active in the IOC Commissions on Apartheid and Olympism (1991–1992) and the Olympic Movement (1991–1999).

In addition he was a member of the Executive Board of the General Association of International Sports Federations (AGFIS/1989–1993), the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF/1993–1997, 1999–2001) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA/2004–2009).

Larfaoui played an important role in the Algerian health system. After his studies he worked as General Director of a number of hospitals including Parnet, Constantine and the Wilaya in Algiers. He was Vice-President of the communal administration of Algiers (1967–1971) as well as a member of the advisory council (1991–1993). (VK)



Born: 27 November
1932, Algiers

Co-opted:
17 June 1995
Resigned:
31 December 2009
Honorary Member
since 2009

Attendance at
Sessions: Present 16,
Absent 0



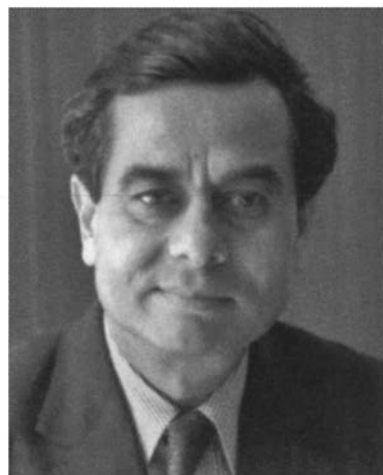
415. | Syed Shahid Ali | Pakistan

After earning a masters degree in economics as the Government College, Lahore he worked on an UNCTAD project at Oxford University in England. While at Oxford he captained the University polo team and on his return home he was elected President of the Lahore Polo Club, a position he held for five years. He represented Pakistan internationally in 1972.

A successful businessman with wide-ranging interests, he became Chief Executive Officer for the Treet Group in 1995. Apart from holding directorships in various companies, he is also actively involved in social and cultural activities and holds senior positions on several hospitals.

He made a major contribution to the sport of wrestling, serving as President of the Pakistan Wrestling Federation and as Vice-President and subsequently Patron of the South Asia Wrestling Federation from 1989 to 1993.

In 1996 he succeeded his father Syed Wajid Ali (1911–2008) *JOH*, Vol. 20, No. 3/2012, p. 71 as an IOC Member. He served on the IOC Commissions for Finance (2002–2014) and Sport for All (2005–2015). Since 2006 he has been a Board member of the International Olympic Truce Foundation. (VK)



Born: 29 December
1946, Lahore

Co-opted: 17 July 1996
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 26,
Absent 1