

The Biographies of all IOC Members

Part XXVII

By Pierre Gricius, Volker Kluge and Ruud Paauw



424. | HRH The Infanta Doña María del Pilar de Borbón | Spain/FEI

Born: 30 July 1936,
Cannes, France
Co-opted:
17 July 1996
Resigned:
1 May 2006
Honorary Member
since 2006
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 11,
Absent 2



The Infanta and Duchess of Badajoz is the sister of King Juan Carlos I and the grand-daughter of King Alfonso XIII who left Spain in 1931 when the Republic was declared. The family were in exile in various European cities and left Rome to settle in Lausanne in 1942 after the bombing of the Italian capital began.

After General Franco had formally re-established the monarchy in 1947, the Infanta, as first born, had claim to the throne. When she married Luis Gómez-Acebo y Duque de Estrada, Count von Torre, a commoner, she was obliged to renounce her claim in favour of her younger brother.

Fluent in six languages, she manages the family's business investments and serves on the board of directors of several companies in Spain, France and the USA.

An active horsewomen in her youth, in 1994 she succeeded Britain's Princess Royal as President of the International Federation of Equestrian Sports (FEI).

Corresponding to the then rule 20.1.3 of the Olympic Charter she was called into the IOC in 1996, where she served until 1 May 2006 when the Jordanian Princess Haya was elected FEI President. (VK)

425. | Guy Drut | France

Born: 6 December
1950, Oignes,
Pas-de-Calais
Co-opted:
17 July 1996,
Replacing
Philippe Chatrier
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 25,
Absent 2



The son of a French father and an English mother, Drut was born on the same street as another great French athlete, Michel Jazy, world record holder over a mile and 3000 m as well as 1960 Olympic silver medallist in the 1500 m.

After setting national junior records in the 110 m hurdles, pole vault and decathlon, Drut concentrated on the 110 m hurdles, winning an Olympic silver medal in 1972 and gold in 1976. He was also European champion in 1974.

Drut served in the office of Jacques Chirac (1975–1976) and was elected a Member of Parliament for Seine-et-Marne in 1986. He was re-elected five times.

Drut also was elected Mayor of Coulommiers from 1992 to 2008. Between 1995 and 1997 he served as Minister of Youth and Sport in the conservative government of Alain Juppé.

His political career in Chirac's Neogaullists (RPR) received a setback when it emerged that he had been paid from 1990 to 1992 for a "fictitious job" in

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426. | Lu Shengrong | People's Republic of China / IBF

Lu Shengrong had an outstanding career as an international sports administrator. She held a number of posts nationally, including Vice-President of the China Badminton Federation in 1988 and an Executive Member of the Chinese Olympic Committee in 1996.

She was elected to the Council in 1983 and was Vice-President (1984–1993) and Deputy Chair of Council (1990–1993) before being unanimously elected President of the International Badminton Federation (IBF– since 2006 Badminton World Federation) in 1993.

Madam Lu was the first Asiatic woman to head an international sports federation and the first Chinese President of any international sporting organisation.

During her presidency, she became a member of the IOC, appointed under rule 20.1.3. of the Olympic Charter. After the Briton Craig Reddie, who was elected in 1994, she was the second representative of her sport on the IOC. From 1996 to 2001 she represented the interests of women as a member of the inaugural Women & Sports Working Group.

After Madam Lu had been re-elected twice as IBF President, the former Deputy Prime Minister Korn Dabbaransi from Thailand succeeded her.

She has been an BWF Honorary Life Vice-President since 2005 and was admitted to the Badminton Hall of Fame in 2006. (VK)



Born: 27 November 1940, Province of Shandong
Co-opted: 17 July 1996
Resigned: 3 June 2001
Attendance at Sessions: Present 8, Absent 0

Roland Baar has died

The double Olympic medallist and five-time world champion in rowing, Dr.-Ing. Roland Baar, lost his life on 23rd June 2018 in a traffic accident at the age of 53. He was a member of the IOC from 1999 to 2004. Since 2011 he had been teaching as a professor at the Technical University in Berlin.

His biography will follow in the next edition.



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public administration. In reality, he was active for the RPR and supporting Chirac's presidential campaign. He was convicted by French courts (receiving a 15-month suspended prison sentence) at the end of 2005 the offence.

As a consequence, on 16 December 2005 he was suspended by the IOC Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Ethics Commission. However, the following year he was granted amnesty by President Jacques Chirac, under a rarely-used clause of the 2002 amnesty law allowing the President that power for people who had made great contributions to France. The move caused great controversy in the French parliament.

After Drut had tried in vain to be elected a member of the IOC Executive Committee, he became Chairman of the International Relations Commission (2002–2005). He was a member of several commissions, among them the Evaluation Commissions of the Olympic Games in 2016 and 2020. (VK)

427. | Irena Szewińska | Poland

Born: 24 May 1946,
Leningrad, RUS
Died: 29 June 2018,
Warsaw
Co-opted:
17 July 1998,
Replacing
Włodzimierz Reczek
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 27,
Absent 0



Irena Szewińska, née Kirszenstein, was one of the most successful female athletes of all time. She attended five Olympic Games from 1964 to 1980 and achieved three golds, two silver and two bronze medals in distances from 100 to 400 m as well as in the long jump.

From 1966 to 1978 she was five times European champion and 26 times Polish champion. She set ten world records. In 2000, she was elected "Athlete of the 20th Century in Poland".

Irena Szewińska was born in the former Soviet Union, where her father, who came from Warsaw, studied from 1938 and worked during the Second World War as an electro-acoustic engineer. Her mother came from Kiev. The family moved to Warsaw in 1947.

She came to athletics in the autumn of 1960 through the triple Olympic champion from Rome, Wilma Rudolph, whose wonderful running style she took as a model. As a stage actress at the time (including playing Ophelia in Hamlet), it was two years before she finally decided on sport.

In 1967, she married the photographer Janusz Szewiński who, as a 400 m hurdler, had been a member of the Polish national team and who occasionally trained his wife. In 1970, their son Andrzej was born.

During her sporting career she did a long-distance programme of study in Poznań in the sports sciences. She was then awarded a degree in Economics at the University of Warsaw. In 2007, she received an honorary doctorate from the Academy of Physical Education and Sport in Gdańsk.

From the mid-1980s she took on numerous functions in administration, including being a member of the Women's Committee of the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF/1984–2007), Council Member (1995–2007), then Honorary Member (2007–2018) of the European Athletics Association (EAA), Vice-President of the Polish NOC (1988–2018), President of the Polish Olympian Association (1997–2009), Vice-President (1995–1999) and then EC Member (1999–2003) of the World Olympians Association (WOA), Board Member of the International Olympic Truce Foundation (2005–2018), and President of the Irena Szewińska's Foundation "Vita Activa".

The First Lady of the Polish sport died in a Warsaw hospital after a battle with cancer. (VK)



428 . | HRH Grand Duke Henri de Luxembourg | Luxembourg

Grand Duke Henri is the eldest son of Grand Duke Jean, the Luxembourg Head of State from 12 November 1964 to 7 October 2000. The Grand Duke was co-opted to the IOC on 3 September 1946, and remained for 15 years to become the longest serving member. He resigned at the 107th Session in Nagano in 1998, whereupon, on the proposal of President Juan Antonio Samaranch, Henri was elected his successor.

On 4 March 1998, Prince Henri of Nassau was appointed lieutenant representative by his father. Since his abdication on 7 October 2000, he has been the Luxembourg Head of State. His numerous titles include of Duke of Nassau, Prince of Bourbon-Parma and Count of Sayn.

Prince Henri studied political science in France and Switzerland. During his studies at the University of Geneva he met his future wife, the Cuban-born Maria Teresa Mestre y Batista. The couple married on 14 February 1981 and have four sons and a daughter: Princess Marie Astrid (*1954), today Archduchess of Austria, Prince Jean of Nassau (*1957), Princess Margaretha of Liechtenstein (*1957) and Prince Guillaume of Nassau (*1963).

Henri is a multi-talented sportsman. He regularly plays tennis, as well as sailing, swimming and water-skiing. Since 1998, he has been a member of the Luxembourg NOC as well as Patron and Honorary President of several national sports federations. He has been a member of the IOC since 1999 of the Olympic Solidarity Commission.

The Grand Duke has a great affection for the Games of Small States of Europe (GSSE) which have taken place every two years since 1985, and which he attends regularly. (PG)



Born: 16 April 1955,
Betzdorf Castle,
Luxembourg
Co-opted:
5 February 1998,
Replacing
Grand Duke Jean
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 21,
Absent 6

429. | General Mounir Saleh Sabet | Egypt

The son of an Egyptian paediatrician and a Welsh mother, he studied Military Science and in 1956 was awarded a degree in Aeronautics. He became Chairman and Managing Director of the Board of the Egyptian Marsa Alam Aviation Services (EMAAS) and of the Egyptian Aviation Services (EAS).

Sabet was a rifleman and was part of the Egyptian national team in 1965. From 1984 to 1992 and from 2000 to 2008 he was President of the Egyptian Shooting Federation. He was head of the Egyptian delegations to the Olympic Games (1988, 1992), to the Mediterranean Games (1991) and to the Pan-Arab Games (1992). From 1991 to 2013 he was President of the African Shooting Confederation as well as a Council Member of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

General Sabet served from 1990 to 1992 and from 1996 to 2009 as President of the Egyptian Olympic Committee. In 2009, he was named Honorary President.

After his election to the IOC he was a member of various commissions, among them Culture and Olympic Education (1999–2015) and Culture and Olympic Heritage (2015–2017). He also was a member of the Coordination Commission for the 2004 Games as well as of the Evaluation Commission for the Games of 2016. He was also Delegate Member for Security (2002–2012).

As the brother of Suzanne Thabet Mubarak, wife of the long-serving Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, General Sabet was involved in the Arab Spring uprisings, which escalated in February 2011 with the removal and arrest of President Mubarak. Sabet was accused of corruption and arms dealing, and placed under house arrest which prevented him taking part in IOC Sessions. (VK)



Born: 29 October
1936, Qena
Co-opted:
5 February 1998,
Replacing
Ahmed E. Touny
Resigned:
31 December 2016
Honorary Member
since 2017
Attendance at
Sessions: Present
16, Absent 8

430. | Nawal El Moutawakel | Morocco

Born: 15 April 1962,
Casablanca
Co-opted:
5 February 1998
Attendance at
Sessions:
Present 25, Absent 0
Executive Board
Member No. 87
Elected Member:
7 August 2008 –
26 July 2012
Second term:
Appointed
3rd Vice-President
26 August 2012
Appointed
1st Vice-President
10 September 2013 –
4 August 2016



Nawal el Moutawakel comes from a keen sporting family. Her father was a judo international, her mother played basketball, and her brothers were athletes.

She began in 1977 with hurdles and broke all Moroccan records in her age groups. A year after winning the 100 m and 200 m at the Arab Championships in 1981, she won at the African Championships in Cairo in both hurdles races. As a reward, King Hassan II granted her a bursary to study at Iowa State University, which she concluded in 1989 with a BSc in Physical Education.

From 1983 Nawal el Moutawakel was one of the international top class in 400 m hurdles. She became French champion (56.22 s) and reached the semi-final at the 1st World Championships in Helsinki.

In 1984, she crowned her career in Los Angeles with Olympic victory in a personal best time (55.37 s). She was the first Muslim woman to win an Olympic gold and, after Esther Brand (RSA) who had won the high jump in 1952, the very first second Olympic champion from Africa.

In 1987 she was a triple winner at the Arab Championships and winner over 400 m hurdles (56.28 s) at the Mediterranean Games in Latakia. That year a knee injury ended her career.

From 1990 she worked in the Administration and in the Management of the Moroccan Athletics Federation. She was Deputy Technical Director in 1993, then Vice-President in 1997. From 1995 she was a member of the Council of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). From 1997 to 1998 she served as Secretary of State to the Minister of Social Affairs, responsible for Youth and Sport. In 2007, she was nominated as a minister until 2009.

She was a pioneer for Muslim and Arab athletes and a pioneer of women's sport which she represented from 1995 also in the IOC Commission Women and Sport. She was Chair of the IOC Commissions for the Evaluation of the Olympic Games 2012 and 2016 as well as a member of the Coordination Commission for the of 2012 Olympics and of the Evaluation Commission for 2024.

Nawal El Moutawakel is married to Mounir Bennis, who is in the wood business. They have two children. (VK)

431. | Melitón Sánchez Rivas | Panama

Born:
8 November 1934
Co-opted:
5 February 1998
Retired:
31 December 2014
Honorary Member
since 2015
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 20,
Absent 0



The former baseball and softball player was the organiser and director of Baseball and Softball Leagues (1965–1975), then President of Panamanian Softball Federation (1975–2010). From 1981 to 1988 he led Central American and Caribbean Confederation (CONCACAS). In the International Softball Federation (ISF) he was initially President for Latin America (1984–2000), and then Executive Board Member from 2000. In 1991 he was elected to the Hall of Fame.

In the Panamanian NOC he served as Treasurer (1972–1980) and President (1982–2007), then as Honorary President for Life. He was Chef de Mission of the Panamanian Olympic team at the Summer Games of 1972 and 1976, at the Central American and Caribbean Games of 1974 to 1982 and the Pan-American Games of 1975 and 1979.

He began his career as a chain of supermarkets and industries (1957–1976). He then worked as a certified public accountant. He was founder and general manager of the accountancy and consultancy firm Sánchez Rivas Associates and accounts director of other companies in Panama.

At the IOC he was a member of the commissions Women and Sport (2002–2015) and Olympic Education (2006–2015). (VK)

432. | Dr. Leopold Wallner | Austria

Originally, the son of a lumberjack family wanted to become a pastor, but then decided to study at the Vienna University for World Trade and in 1961 he got his doctorate. From 1964 to 1967 he was Economic Advisor of the Austrian Federal Chancellor Josef Klaus, who entrusted him with cleaning up the lottery.

Wallner conceived a new limited company called Spielbanken AG (since 1985 Casinos Austria AG), which he developed into a tourist attraction. In 1977 he led the foundation of the Austrian Spielbanken Consulting AG (today Casinos Austria International), whose President he became.

Worldwide Wallner realised more than 200 international casino projects and in 1986 introduced in Austria further games of chance. For that purpose the Lotto Toto Gesellschaft (since 1991 Austrian Lotteries) was founded, whose chairman of the board he was from 1986 to 2007.

He began his career in sports administration as Vice-President of the Austrian Sports Aid Foundation (1981–2009). For 19 years from 1990 he was President of the Austrian NOC (ÖOC). He gave up this office at the end of 2009, after financial irregularities in connection with application of Salzburg for the Olympic Winter Games of 2014 emerged. The proceedings against him by the State Prosecutor were abandoned because of his age.

His successor as NOC President and later as member of the IOC was Karl Stoss, who had already take over from him in May 2007 as General Director of Casinos Austria.

In the IOC, Wallner was a member of the IOC Finance Commission (2000–2014), the Audit Commission (2006–2012) and the Ethics Commission (2009–2012). In addition, he was Honorary Senator of the Vienna University of Economics and Business at the University of Salzburg and member of several supervisory councils, among them the Viennese Volksoper, the Schönbrunn Zoo and, until 2011, also with Casinos Austria and the Austrian Lotteries. (VK)



Born: 4 November 1935, Amstetten
Died: 29 July 2015, Vienna
Co-opted: 5 February 1998
Retired: 31 December 2014
Honorary Member since 2015
Attendance at Sessions: Present 19, Absent 0



433. | HM King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands | The Netherlands

From his early childhood Crown Prince Willem-Alexander was very interested in sport. Over the years he practiced running, skating, skiing, sailing, golf and equestrian. At 18 he skated under pseudonym (but he was soon recognized) the famous 200 km long Elfstedentocht. In 1992 he ran the New York marathon.

In 1998 he became a member of the IOC. It was agreed between the Dutch government and the crown prince that he would abstain from voting in politically sensitive cases and that he would retire when he became king.

Within the IOC he has mainly used to stimulate sport in Africa. Like his grandmother and mother the crown prince studied at the Leiden University. He graduated in 1993 with a degree in history.

He became king on 30th April 2013 and had to give up his IOC membership which happened at the 125th Session in Buenos Aires. At this occasion IOC President Jacques Rogge granted him the Olympic Order in gold. As Honorary Member King Willem-Alexander is present so far at every Olympic Games encouraging with great enthusiasm his countrymen in the Olympic arena. (RP)



Born: 27 April 1967, Utrecht
Co-opted: 5 February 1998
Retired: 10 September 2013
Honorary Member since 2013
Attendance at Sessions: Present 15, Absent 2