

OBITUARIES

HRH Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg

His Royal Highness Grand Duke Jean died on 23 April 2019 at the age of 98. He was born at Berg Castle on 5 January 1921. On 5 January 1939, the crown prince came of age and he assumed the title of Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg. He became Grand Duke of Luxembourg on 12 November 1964. After 36 years of reign, he abdicated in favour of his eldest son, Hereditary Grand Duke Henri, on 7 October 2000.

Grand Duke Jean joined the IOC in 1946 and became an Honorary Member in 1998. The Chairman of the IOC Rules Reviewing Commission from 1973 to 1976, he was also a member of the IOC Commission of Enquiry for the Winter Games in 1968 and 1969.

He was a volunteer in the British Army (Irish Guards, armoured division, 1942–1945), Colonel and Assistant Inspector General of the Luxembourg Army (1945–1964); member of the State Council (1951–1961); and Lieutenant Representative of HRH The Grand Duchess Charlotte (1961–1964). (IOC/JOH)

Bayram Şit (TUR), *1930 in Akşar; †29 May 2019 in Ankara (TUR). Şit's first major international wrestling victory for Turkey came at the 1951 Mediterranean Games, where he won the freestyle featherweight gold medal. He followed this up a year later by becoming Olympic champion at the 1952 Helsinki Games, and was then runner-up to Japan's Shozo Sasahara at the 1954 World Championships.

Both Sasahara and Şit attended the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, but Şit was unable to defend his title and finished joint-fourth with American Myron Roderick, while Sasahara took home gold.

Şit retired after these Games and worked as a trainer in both France and Turkey, eventually serving as technical director for his home country's national team. (PT)

Lowell North (USA), *2 December 1929 in Springfield, Missouri; †2 June 2019 in San Diego, California. In both the 1964 and 1968 Olympics, Lowell North was the helmsman on the medal winning boats. In Tokyo Bay in 1964 he had Charlie Rogers and Dick Deaver as his crew, while at Acapulco in 1968 he was partnered by Peter Barrett in the star class. Partly for the gold medal performance, North was voted the Martini & Rossi Award as 1968 Yachtsman of the Year.

North, a Cal/Berkeley graduate in engineering, was a four-time world champion in the Star class, and also finished second five times at the Star Worlds. The 1968 win was particularly satisfying because it came over the legendary Dane, Poul Elvstrøm, who had beaten him at two previous World Championships.

In 1977, North skippered the boat *Enterprise* at the America's Cup Trials, but failed to be chosen to defend. He was the owner of his own sailmaking company, North Sails, which he ran for 27 years before selling it in 1984. (BM)

Thompson Mann (USA), *1 December 1942 in Norfolk, Virginia; †4 April 2019 in Amesbury, Massachusetts. After clocking exactly 60.0 sec. for the 100 m backstroke in September 1964 for a world record, Mann became the first person to break the one-minute barrier when he clocked 59.6 on the opening leg of the 1964 victorious Olympic medley relay. At the 1965 Universiade he won a bronze medal in the 100 m backstroke and a gold medal in the medley relay.

He had grown up in Richmond, Virginia where he swam for the Country Club of Virginia. After college and residency, he stayed in San Francisco where he practiced medicine, later moving back home

to set up a practice in Richmond. In his later years, he moved his practice to Newburyport, although he had to retire from practice prematurely because of health issues.

Mann was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1984. *(BM/WWR)*.



Lydia Wideman (FIN), married Lehtonen, *17 May 1920 in Vilppula; †13 April 2019 in Tampere. Lydia Wideman became the first female Olympic medallist in cross-country skiing when she won a gold medal in the 10 km at the 1952 Winter Olympics. The Finns completely dominated that race by taking all podium places and a fifth place.

Wideman won the Finnish title in the 10 km in 1952 and silver in 1951. She also won the 10 km at the 1952 Lahti Ski Games, the 10 km at Ounasvaara in 1951 and 1952, and the 10 km race at Puijo in 1949.

In 1952 Wideman started in 13 races and won all of them. During and after her sporting career she worked as a clerk. Upon the death of Durward Knowles in February 2018, she became the oldest living Olympic champion. *(PT)*

Kelly Catlin (USA), *3 November 1995 in Saint Paul, Minnesota; †8 March 2019 in Stanford, California. Catlin won a silver medal in team pursuit at the 2016 Rio Olympics. At the 2015 Pan American Games, she won a gold medal on the road in the team time trial, and also won silver in the team pursuit on the track. She was a three-time gold medallist in the team pursuit at the World Championships, helping the US team win in 2016–18 and a bronze medallist in individual pursuit at the 2017–18 Worlds.

Catlin graduated from the University of Minnesota, where she majored in mathematics and Chinese. She then attended graduate school at Stanford, studying computational and mathematical engineering. She was also an accomplished violinist and artist.

One of a set of triplets, she seemed to have everything going for her, but sustained a serious concussion while training in 2018. It affected her dramatically and she attempted suicide in January 2019, although she survived. In March 2019, however, she took her own life. *(BM)*

Dimitar Dobrev (BUL), *14 April 1931 in Ezerche; †1 April 2019. Dobrev was a Graeco-Roman wrestler who won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics and a silver medal at the 1956 Olympics. Before becoming a wrestler he started his sporting career as a gymnast. He competed at the wrestling World Championships in 1955, 1958, and 1962, placing fourth in 1958 and 1962.



By profession Dobrev was a mathematician. He also served as a coach, eventually becoming Bulgarian national coach in both styles. In his coaching career, he is known for having discovered both Boyan Radev and Petar Kirov. *(BM)*

Ilona Novák (HUN), *16 May 1925 in Budapest; †14 March 2019 in Budapest. Ilona Novák's swimming career began on the eve of Second World War. She won her first national medal, silver in the 100 metres backstroke, in 1939. The following year she won her first of 35 national titles, in a career that lasted until 1956.

She made her Olympic début in 1948 in London, where she just missed a medal by coming in fourth in the 100 metres backstroke. She was also fifth in the 4x100 metres freestyle relay. At the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, the relay including Ilona

and her sister Éva won gold in this event, while Ilona was also eliminated in the semi-finals of the 100 metres freestyle.

She competed at the European Championships in 1947 and 1954, but did not reach the podium, although she did help set a world record in the 4x100 metres freestyle in 1952.

Following her retirement from competition, she was active as a sports administrator and physical education teacher, serving on the boards of both the Hungarian and European swimming associations. *(BM)*

Lina Cheryazova (UZB), *1 November 1968 in Tashkent; †23 March 2019 in Novosibirsk/RUS. Lina Cheryazova is the only Uzbekistani athlete to win a Winter Olympic medal. As a youth, Cheryazova did gymnastics and trampolining and took up freestyle skiing in 1987. She debuted at the World Cup circuit in December 1989 and soon rose to be the top female aerialist in the world at the start of 90s. Cheryazova was world champion in 1993 and won gold at the 1994 Olympics.

She won bronze at the 1990 European Championships and was also the aerials overall World Cup winner in the 1992–1993 (winning six out of eight races) and 1993–94 seasons (winning six out of 11 races). Shortly after winning her 1994 Olympic victory, Cheryazova was told that her mother had died three weeks earlier, from injuries she had sustained in an industrial accident. Her mother had specifically asked that her daughter not be told so she concentrate on the competition.

In the summer of 1994, Cheryazova fractured her skull during training and was in a coma for more than a month. After more than a year of recovery, she returned to sport in the autumn of 1995, but never returned to her previous level, and after another injury sustained after the 1998 Winter Olympics, retired from sports.

Later, Cheryazova worked as a freestyle skiing coach in Uzbekistan and Russia and worked as a deputy sports director of the National Bank of Uzbekistan. She also headed her own non-profit foundation Olympic champion Lina Cheryazova, that promotes freestyle skiing in the former Soviet Union. (PT)

Klara Ivanova Guseva (URS), married Nesterova, *8 March 1937 in Pichersk; †12 May 2019 in Moscow. The winter of 1960 was very successful for Klara Guseva. She won her only Soviet title, in the 1000 m, and was runner-up at the Soviet All-Around Championships and in the 500 m and 1500 m. Then ten days later she won the 1000 m at the World Championships.

At the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, where women's speed skating for the first time belonged to the Olympic programme, she gained the gold medal over 1000 m. In the 1500 m competition, she finished fourth.



Her next international appearance was at the 1961 World Championships, where she was fifth in the all-around. As married Klara Nesterova, she made her last international appearance at the 1964 Olympics, where she finished fourth in the 3000 m. In 2019, she was hit by a car and succumbed to her injuries. (TK/WR)

Jürgen Kissner (FRG), *18 August 1942 in Luckau; †18 May 2019 in Cologne. At the 1968 Olympics, track cyclist Jürgen Kissner replaced his injured teammate Rainer Podlesch after the quarter-final. The team then reached

the pursuit final against Denmark. The West Germans always led and the race looked over when, after 9 of 12 laps, a Danish rider went off the back. However, they re-grouped but still trailed at the bell.

The team then began to split, with Kissner dropping off the pace. As his teammate Karlheinz Henrichs passed him, Kissner's hand appeared to touch him, possibly giving him a slight push. Germany held on to win by 3½ seconds, but East Germany immediately protested that the touch had been an illegal shove.

After a 15-minute conference among the judges, West Germany was disqualified, and Italy and the Soviet Union were announced as the silver and bronze medal winners. FRG officials then protested, stating that Italy and the Soviets should not be placed ahead of their riders. Another long conference ensued, and the result was announced as Denmark first and Italy third. No silver medal placement was given until a meeting of the Fédération Internationale Amateur de Cyclisme (FIAC, later the UCI) in November, when West Germany was awarded second place and their silver medals.

Kissner, who was born in East Germany, had been a member of GDR's four-man squad for four years and had options to participate in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. For this, however, the squad had to beat the West German team – which also sought the Olympic participation – at a qualifying event.

After two races, held in the West and the East, it was a tie, and a second round was scheduled. But before the first race, which was to be held in Cologne, Kissner defected with the help of a friend and the support of a tabloid newspaper. Thus, the weakened GDR squad lost both races. The West German team trained by Gustav Kilian went to Tokyo, where it won the Olympic gold medal.

Kissner won a silver (1966) and a bronze (1967) with the West German pursuit team at the World

Championships. In 1967, he also won the West German national omnium title.

After his active career, he started a short coaching career as an assistant to his teammate Udo Hempel, before becoming a sports and biology teacher in Cologne. (WR/VK)

Kenneth Joseph Matthews (GBR), *21 June 1934 in Birmingham; †2 June 2019 in Wrexham, Wales. In 1959, Ken Matthews of the Sutton Coldfield Walking Club won the first of his six consecutive RWA 10 miles titles, and as he also won the 2 miles and 7 miles at the AAA Championships that year, he was the British champion in all three walking events, a feat he repeated in 1961, 1963 and 1964. With victories in the 1964 Olympics, the European Championships in 1962 and the Lugano Cup in 1961 and 1963, Matthews won four of the five major international races in which he took part and his only failure came in the 1960 Games.

Starting as one of the favorites for the 20 km title in Rome, he made a rare error of pace judgment and failed to finish. Four years later in Tokyo Matthews was a convincing winner, finishing ahead of the East German Dieter Lindner and the Ukrainian Vladimir Golubnichy, who had won the Olympic title in 1960 and was to win a second gold medal in 1968 after Matthews had retired.

Matthews, who was an electrician at Hams Hall Power Station, near Sutton Coldfield, was the only British Olympic champion in Tokyo who was not honoured with an MBE at the end of the year. A campaign from within the sport to rectify this finally succeeded in 1978 and Matthews was appointed an MBE 14 years after his Olympic victory. (IM)

Yvette Williams (NZL), * 25 April 1929 in Caversham; †13 April 2019 in Auckland. Yvette Williams was one of the greatest athletes produced by New Zealand and one of the most versatile. She won the long jump and





was second in the javelin at the 1950 Empire Games in Auckland and two years later became the first female New Zealander to win an Olympic title when she won the long jump at the Games in Helsinki. She was also tenth in the discus and sixth in the shot put in Helsinki.

At the 1954 British Empire Games in Vancouver, she won the shot put, discus and long jump, won a silver in the javelin throw, and was sixth in the 80 metres hurdles.

Williams had also set a world record (6.28 m) for the long jump earlier that year in Gisborne. She won 21 New Zealand Championships in various events – shot put (1947–54), javelin (1950), discus (1951–54), long jump (1948–54), and the 80 m hurdles (1954).

She also played basketball and netball for New Zealand. In the centenary year of Athletics New Zealand in 1987, she was named Athlete of the Century. A brother, Roy, won the decathlon at the 1966 British Empire Games. (OM)



Patrick Sercu (BEL), *27 June 1944 in Roeselare; †19 April 2019 in Roeselare. The 1962 Belgian amateur sprint champion at the age 18, Sercu went on to become the most successful six-day racer in cycling history. With 88 victories from 233 starts, he had a success ratio of nearly one in three.

Sercu also won three sprint world titles, one as an amateur (1963) and two as a pro (1967, 1969), as well as the 1964 Olympic gold in the 1 km time trial. He also broke both the indoor and outdoor 1 km world record.

His first win as a professional came in 1965. He continued to win one or more events through 1983, the year of his retirement. He partnered some greats of the day, including Eddy Merckx, his partner on the occasion of his first six-day win, and Peter Post, with whom Sercu enjoyed the most success. Ironically, when he won the Berlin Six with Dietrich Thurau on 17 October 1979,

it was Sercu's 66th win, it broke the previous record held by Post. Sercu's 88th, and last, six-day win was in the Copenhagen Six with Gert Frank in 1983.

He was also a successful sprinter on the road, capturing the green jersey in the 1974 Tour de France, as well as total of 6 stage wins in the Tour and 13 in the Giro d'Italia. He also twice finished second in the *Het Volk* (now *Omloop Het Nieuwsblad*) minor classic, a race his father won in 1947.

In total, Patrick won 1,038 track races and a further 168 on the road. Later, he was active as an organiser of six-day races in his native Belgium, including the famous Six Days of Ghent, a race he won 11 times between 1965–1981. He was also the Belgian national track coach. (BM)

Andrea Pollack (GDR), married Pinske. *8 May 1961 in Schwerin; †13 March 2019 in Berlin. Pollack came to competitive sports as a five-year old doing orthopedic swimming. At the 1976 GDR championships, which she entered as a 15-year-old, she finished second right behind Kornelia Ender at the 100 m butterfly event. The Montreal Olympics saw an identical result.

Contrary to all forecasts, she managed to beat her favorite teammates – Rosemarie Gabriel and Ulrike Tauber – at the 200 m butterfly event. Pollack won a second Olympic gold medal in the 4x100 m medley relay and also took silver home with the 4x100m freestyle relay.

After Pollack became the 1977 European champion and 1978 Vice World Champion in 100 m butterfly and medley relay, she won her third gold medal in the medley relay at the 1980 Olympics, to which she added a silver medal in 100 m butterfly. In 1987, she was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

After abandoning competition, she completed a training as a physiotherapist. She worked at the Olympic

training centre in Berlin as a senior physiotherapist until her passing away. She married the former cyclist Norbert Pinske. Her son Michael, born in 1985, participated in the 2008 Beijing Olympics as Judoka (~100 kg).

In a trial in 1998, she admitted to the use of forbidden substances during training, and her former coach was imposed a fine. (VK)

Josef Feistmantl (AUT), *23 February 1939 in Absam; †10 March 2019 in Kufstein. Feistmantl had a long career in international luge, winning five medals at the World Championships from 1959–1971. In 1964 he and Manfred Stengl became the first Olympic champions in doubles luge.



Feistmantl's World Championship medals were all in singles, with a gold in 1969, silvers in 1959 and 1970, and bronzes in 1967 and 1971. He won three medals at the European Championships, all in doubles, with a gold in 1967 and silvers in 1954 and 1962.

Feistmantl won nine Austrian championships, five in singles in 1962–1963, 1966–1967, and 1970, and four in doubles in 1961 and 1963–1965.

In 1976 he was chosen to light one of the two Olympic Flames, along with Christl Haas, at the Innsbruck Opening Ceremony. In 1996 he was awarded a Gold Medal for Service to the Austrian Republic. Feistmantl's career was as an optician. (BM)

BM = Bill Mallon, IM = Ian Morrison, OM = OlyMADMen, PT = Paul Tchir, TK = Taavi Kalju, VK = Volker Kluge, WR = Wolf Reinhardt

The ISOH offers the families of the deceased its sincere condolences.