Looking forward to the IAAF World Indoor Championships Birmingham 2018 and IAAF/Trinidad Alfonso World Half Marathon Championships Valencia 2018

There's just a matter of days to go until the first two IAAF World Athletics Series events of 2018.

First up is the IAAF World Indoor Championships Birmingham 2018 which will get underway later this week. It will be the second time that Birmingham has hosted the event, having done so in 2003, and comes just seven months after the UK hosted the IAAF World Championships London 2017.

Following the conclusion of the IAAF World Indoor Tour, 11 athletes secured wild cards for Birmingham, joining the 11 World Indoor Tour winners from last year.

Just a few weeks after the World Indoor Championships closing ceremony, the focus of attention will shift to Spain for the IAAF/Trinidad Alfonso World Half Marathon Championships Valencia 2018.

Some major names – including defending champion Geoffrey Kamworor and world record-holder Joyciline Jepkosgei – have already confirmed their intention to compete in Valencia, so it will most likely be another memorable event.

The 213th IAAF Council Meeting will take place at the Birmingham City Council House at the end of the IAAF World Indoor Championships Birmingham 2018 on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 March 2018.
FEATURED NEWS

**Athletes share ideas to innovate the sport at forum with Coe in Clermont-Ferrand**

Several of the world's best elite pole vaulters shared their ideas on how to innovate the sport at an informal forum with IAAF President Sebastian Coe on 24 February in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

**IAAF World Indoor Tour winners secure wildcards for Birmingham**

With the latest season of the IAAF World Indoor Tour having come to a close after the last of its six meetings, 11 athletes have booked their place at the IAAF World Indoor Championships Birmingham 2018.

**IAAF/Trinidad Alfonso World Half Marathon Championships Valencia 2018 strengthens anti-doping commitment**

For the first time, the local organiser of an IAAF World Championships is contributing to the fight against doping with an extra voluntary financial donation of US$50,000 to strengthen the event's anti-doping programme.

**‘Athletics - 3000 years and counting’ – IAAF Heritage collection to be launched in Birmingham**

On the last day of the IAAF World Indoor Championships Birmingham 2018, historic athletics artefacts from the ancient Olympic Games to the modern era will be donated to help establish the IAAF Heritage collection.

FOR THE RECORD

**ATHLETES SANCTIONED FOR A DOPING OFFENCE**

An up-to-date list can be downloaded [here](#).

**WORLD RECORDS RATIFIED**

**U20 men’s 4x400m**

3:00.33 USA (Zachary Shinnick, Josephus Lyles, Brian Herron, Sean Hooper) Trujillo 23 July 2017

Previous: 3:01.09 USA (Brandon Johnson, LaShawn Merritt, Jason Craig, Kerron Clement) Grosseto 18 July 2004

**OBITUARIES**

- 1988 Olympic and two-time world hammer champion Sergey Litvinov
- Athletics statistician Ken Young
- Cliff Bourland, oldest surviving Olympic athletics gold medallist

To contribute to the IAAF website or newsletter, please contact [editor@iaaf.org](mailto:editor@iaaf.org)

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