

# Track and Field



*The 3,000 m  
Steeplechase*



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### Only since 1954

Steeplechase races have almost always figured on the OG program, but it was not until 1954 that the Fédération Internationale d'Athlétisme in Berne ruled on the nature and number of the obstacles, as well as the distance between them. Previously there had been the 2,500 m, 3,200 m and 4,000 m steeplechase events, with the number of obstacles varying between 32 and 37.

With the Berne ruling, an official world record in the event could at last be recognized. 8 min 49.6 sec: this was the time clocked by the winner at the 1954 European Championships, the Hungarian Sandor Rozsnyoi.

Better performances had been achieved before, and in perfectly acceptable conditions, but they were not ratified. They only figure as a basis for comparison in the official world record chronology. There was the 8 min 45.4 sec run by the American Horace Ashenfelter, the winner at the Helsinki OG (July 25, 1952) and the Finn Olavi Rinteenpaa's 8 min 44.4 sec (August 2, 1953) in Helsinki. Looking at it logically, Jerzy Chromik, the best

steeplechaser of his time, should have been the first to take the gold medal after Ashenfelter and Rinteenpaa. Although the same could not be said today, for a long time the 3,000 m steeplechase gave second-rate middle-distance runners the chance to shine in their own right.

#### WORLD RECORD CHRONOLOGY

8'49"6	S. Rozsnyoi	(HUN)	8.28.54	Berne
8'47"8	P. Karvonen	(FIN)	7. 1.55	Helsinki
8'45"4	P. Karvonen	(FIN)	7.15.55	Oslo
8'45"4	V. Vlassenko	(USSR)	8.18.55	Moscow
8'41"2	J. Chromik	(POL)	8.31.55	Brno
8'40"2	J. Chromik	(POL)	9.11.55	Budapest
8'39"8	S. Rischine	(USSR)	8.14.56	Moscow
8'35"6	S. Rozsnyoi	(HUN)	9.16.56	Budapest
8'35"6	S. Rischine	(USSR)	7.21.58	Tallin
8'32"	J. Chromik	(POL)	8. 2.58	Warsaw
8'31"4	L. Krzyszkowiak	(POL)	6.26.60	Tula
8'31"2	G. Taran	(USSR)	5.28.61	Kiev
8'30"4	L. Krzyszkowiak	(POL)	8.10.61	Walcz
8'29"6	G. Roelants	(BEL)	9. 7.63	Louvain
8'26"4	G. Roelants	(BEL)	8. 7.65	Brussels
8'24"2	J. Kuha	(FIN)	7.17.68	Stockholm
8'22"2	V. Doudine	(USSR)	8.19.69	Kiev
8'22"	K. O'Brien	(AUS)	7. 4.70	E. Berlin
8'20"8	A. Garderud	(SWE)	9.14.72	Helsinki
8'19"8	B. Jipcho	(KEN)	5.19.73	Helsinki
8'14"	B. Jipcho	(KEN)	6.27.73	Helsinki
8'10"4	A. Garderud	(SWE)	9.14.75	Oslo
8'09"7	A. Garderud	(SWE)	7. 1.75	Stockholm
8'08"	A. Garderud	(SWE)	7.27.76	Montreal
8'05"4	Henry Rono	(KEN)	5.14.78	Seattle

*The water-hazard of the 3,000-m steeplechase, where many hopes were drowned...*