I

The first Winter Olympics weren’t Winter Olympics. They were the “International Winter Sports Week” and were a compromise of desires. Held in Chamonix, France they were supposed to be the overdue Winter sibling to the Summer Olympics. However, only a year later they were retrospectively knighted as Olympic Games.

Shortly after the first Summer Olympic Games were held in 1894, General Viktor Gustav Balck [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor\_Balck] tried to add Winter sports to the schedule. Balck was aptly called the “father of Swedish sports” and although he was a charter member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and a good friend of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games it took until the 1908 London games for some winter sports (mainly figure skating) to be added to the schedule.

However, Balck realised early on, that it would take a while for some proper Winter Olympics and hence went on to launch the “Nordic Games” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nordic\_Games] which were held from 1901 every 2-4 years until 1926.

**nordic\_games.jpg**

**By Unknown - Stockholmarnas tidiga 1900-tal, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14140465**

Ironically, the Nordic Games precluded the introduction of Winter Olympics as proposals for stand-alone Winter Games were being rejected to maintain the integrity of the Nordic Games.

Then eventually, 1924 saw the IOC stage the “International Winter Sports Week” in Chamonix. Shy to actually call the 11 days “Olympics”, it was a test which was passed with flying flags. With 98 events staged in Sochi 2014, the 16 events of 1924 in just 5 sports sounds modest – but it certainly got the interest flowing at the time. The IOC renamed the “Week” to “Winter Olympics” in 1925 retroactively and the baby had its name.

Norway which was to rule the Winter Olympics a few more times in history made it home with the most medals – a total of 17. Great Britain came third before Austria and Switzerland. Such were the times.

II

St. Moritz, Switzerland hosted the 2nd Winter Games. Now officially called Olympics from the start. The weather god welcomed the whopping number of 464 athletes with a blizzard during the opening ceremony and send uninvited warm weather up to a sizzling 25 degrees Celsius during the following days of competition. Understandably disgruntled, the host Switzerland stayed home with only a single bronze medal – the lowest output ever generated by a host nation.

**elephant.jpg**

**By David Blackwell,** [**https://www.flickr.com/photos/mobilestreetlife/4179063482**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mobilestreetlife/4179063482) **under CC BY-ND 2.0**

But the main elephant in the room of these early Olympics – at least from a 21st century perspective – was the gender ratio. 26 women competed in St. Moritz – a number dwarfed by the 438 men. Let’s keep an eye on this ratio going forward…

III

In 1932 the Winter Olympics travelled to the US for the first of four times. Lake Placid in the state of New York hosted the smallest Winter Olympics ever organized with only 252 athletes (just over 8% women we grumble). 2 participants less than the first games in 1924. Most athletes just couldn’t afford the long trip to the US amidst the Great Depression and stayed at home – which was mainly Europe at the time (as in there were 85% Europeans in 1928).

The games were supposed to be held in Wrightwood and Big Pines in California, which built the largest ski jump ever constructed, but warm weather conditions forced the whole show to travel east, which wasn’t exactly snowed under but offered enough snow and ice to stage the 3rd Winter Olympics.

A total of 14 events (we shall have 102 in Pyeongchang 2018) were staged with a total of 7 skating and 4 skiing events as well as 1 bobsleigh competition and 1 ice hockey tournament won by Canada after over time in an apparently rather tasty match.

IV

To the sound of hitherto unrivalled propaganda the 1936 Winter Olympics started on the 6th of February in Germany’s Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The last time Summer and Winter Olympics were held in the same country.

Alpine Skiing made its Olympic Debut – a rather late addition from a modern perspective as some alpine disciplines like the Downhill competition would nowadays be viewed as an unmissable event. Skiing teacher were barred from the games which led then already dominant Austrian and Swiss skiers to refrain from participating entirely.

Norway won the total medal count with 15, more than double the number of medals second-placed Sweden took home (7). Ivar Ballangrud [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivar\_Ballangrud] alone won 3 Gold medals in Speed Skating.

**ivar\_ballangrud.jpg**

**By Alf Schrøder (1880-1951) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons**

Norway, however, faced the problem of carrying home the heaviest medals ever produced with 324 Gram each. If they only knew before…

V

World War II muted the winter games for a full 12 years. Sapporo was scheduled for 1940, but was moved to Garmisch-Partenkirchen after Japan’s invasion of China in 1938, before getting cancelled entirely after Germany’s Poland invasion. The 1944 games were supposed to take place in Cortina D’Ampezzo, but were also cancelled.

1948 saw the first post-war Olympic Games in St. Moritz in neutral and hence mainly intact Switzerland. It was labeled the “Games of Renewal” and saw one of the most equally contested games ever, with nearly half of all teams winning a medal.

Although it was only the second time Alpine Skiing was Olympic, it topped the number of events with 6. That’s 2 events more than Speed skating.

But the most amusing story happened on ice – or rather before the ice – as 2 US Ice Hockey teams showed up claiming to be the legitimate representative. That turned out to be a lose-lose situation with both teams being denied participation (although one was allowed to play along without any medal-eligibility).

VI

On the 14th of February 1952 the Olympic Games came home in many eyes. Norway, the home of modern skiing and the nation winning most medals in 4 of the hitherto 5 Games hosted the Olympic Games. They went for it and provided 150,000 people access to the Ski Jump at the legendary Holmenkollen Hill. The largest of all Olympic venues so far.

The Oslo games were also the first using computers to calculate figure skating scores. There was one particularly exciting score as US figure skater Richard “Dick” Button [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick\_Button] could have taken it easy and cruising to Gold in his second run, but instead attempted a triple loop. An element no one had ever tried in competition before. He landed it and received a near perfect overall score of 192.

However, it was Norway once again taking the most medals overall as well the most Gold medals – amongst which was the Holmenkollen Gold and Silver. Furthermore, Norway gave the world and all future Winter Olympics the so called “Oslo flag”, a flag that from hereon would be passed on from one host city to the next.

**oslo\_flag.jpg**

**By Dave O from North Vancouver, CANADA - 1952 Oslo Winter Olympic flag, CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9370530**

VII

After the war-spoiled games of 1948 Cortina D’Ampezzo finally hosted the Winter Olympics in 1956. Italian skater Guido Caroli [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guido\_Caroli] was tasked to skate the torch to the Olympic flame before which he got trapped in a cable and fell. He nearly extinguished the flame on his way down, yet managed to get back up again, igniting the Olympic fire with a hurty knee.

While the previous Oslo games had been the first computerized games, the Cortina games were the first televised games. No TV rights were sold for another 4 years but Cortina was an official test of the attractiveness of televising a large scale sporting event, which worked quite well and still does.

The gender ratio was still low on a meager 16% without improving from the previous games in Oslo. However, the skiing event ratio was significantly up to nearly 60% of all events, seeing an Austrian athlete winning all three Alpine Skiing events: Toni Sailer, aka the “Blitz from Kitz”.

**toni\_sailer.jpg**

**By Unknown - http://www.ssf.or.jp/history/story\_06/photo2.html, Public Domain,** [**https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40668257**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40668257)

The first of his Gold’s was in the giant slalom, which he won by 6.2 seconds – the largest margin of victory in Olympic history.

VII

After 28 years the Olympics came back to the US. Squaw Valley, however, was an unlikely candidate as in 1955 it had exactly one permanent resident. Alexander Cushing [https://skiinghistory.org/lives/alex-cushing] was the owner of the then rather little ski resort. However the bid was won with some support from Laurance Rockefeller [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurance\_Rockefeller] and within 4 years Squaw Valley was built into an Olympic host city for roughly US$80 million (around 700 mil. In 2015 US$).

**squaw\_valley.jpg**

**Von IOC - www.olympic.org, Gemeinfrei,** [**https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40432992**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40432992)

While this looks like a steep sum for 1960 (we go with Wikipedia here, other sums are flying around: <http://olympstats.com/2014/05/21/winter-olympic-costs/>), the organisers turned rather parsimonious in some decisions like not building a bob-track as it apparently wouldn’t pay out. So – to the misery of bob-nation Germany – 1960 was the only Winter Olympics without any bobsleigh-events.

This as well as the inclusion of women’s speed skating allowed the gender ratio to move just beyond the 20% mark for the first time. Other premiers included the first Gold medal for a metal rather than a wooden ski as well as the first ever slow motion on TV. The Slalom officials asked the CBS to review a scene as they were unsure as to whether a skier had missed a gate or not. The TV team played the scene slowly back and forth and quickly grew fond of the little trick, incorporating it swiftly into their routine.

VIII

The 8th Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria were warm. So warm that the Austrian army carved out 20,000 blocks of ice from near mountain sites to build luge and bobsleigh tracks. They also conjured up 40,000 cubic meters of snow to the skiing slopes. Around 1,600 of these shipping containers:

**shipping\_container.jpg**

**Von KMJ aus der deutschsprachigen Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0,** [**https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1443327**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1443327)

But *it was to good avail* ***(? Can one say that ?)*** as Innsbruck saw the first manifestation of the Olympic Spirit in the form of the De Coubertain medal for sportsmanship. Italy’s Eugenio Monti [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenio\_Monti], a bobsleigh driver, helped the British team win Gold by lending them an axle bolt.

**eugenio\_monti.jpg**

**By Unknown - [1], Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47966322**

Italy won bronze, but Eugenio was the first distinguished holder of the De Coubertin medal (the Olympic Gods also helped him win 2 Gold’s during the next Games)

IX

1968 the Olympics turned colourful. For the first time the games were broadcasted in colour with TV taking center stage in literal terms as the layout and positioning of broadcast facilities meant that the athletes were moved out to more remote areas. Allegedly. Gender tests were another first, hinting at the fear that some men would cross-dress for the occasion. If they did, the tests caught them as the gender-ratio is still at a meager 18% with only 211 of all 1,168 athletes.

One man in particular raced to victory. Jean-Claude Killy won all three alpine skiing events. One contested by Austrian Karl Schranz who had a faster but possibly unfounded disqualified time than Killy.

**jean-claude\_killy.jpg**

**By User:Efilguht - File:Perillat, Killy, Datwyler.jpg, CC BY-SA 3.0,** [**https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29461937**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29461937)

However, neither France nor Austria claimed the most medals as it was Norway once again. For the first time since 1952 Norway managed that feat beating the USSR - who have since been victorious each four years - by one medal (14 vs 13).

X

For the first time ever the Games were hosted outside the US or Europe. It didn’t come as a large surprise as Japan prepared like no other nation previously. They started and finished construction well in advance of the Olympics and even staged a test-trial a year in advance to test the facilities as well as the ‘civic mettel [https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mettle] and hospitality’. They passed.

It proved successful also for Japan’s Winter sport team which had never won an Olympic Gold metal before, but secured Gold and Silver in the 70m Ski Jump. Karl Schranz, the dominant skier of the time, didn’t get a medal chance as he wasn’t allowed to compete in a controversy around amateurism.

**karl\_schranz.jpg**

**Von with permission from karlschranz.com (hotel.karl.schranz@st-anton.at), CC BY-SA 3.0,** [**https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1783954**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1783954)

He allowed his name and picture to be used for commercial advertising which got him banned from participation while professional ice hockey players were allowed to partake.

XI

The 1976 Games were actually awarded to and accepted by Denver, Colarado. But in 1972 the voters of Colorado rejected public funding of the Games after the costs soared by 300% and environmental concerns swung the public mood. Vancouver, British Colombia received an offer to host the Games but the administration who came into power also rejected hosting. So it went back to Innsbruck, which still had most of the infrastructure from the 1964 Games in place.

**1976\_innsbruck.png**

**By The logo may be obtained from 1976 Winter Olympics., https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4623799**

After a short break from the top in 1968, the Soviet Union claimed the most medals in 1972 and here in Innsbruck in 1976. Have a look at the *Nations and medal* visual and see how front-loaded these Games were with USSR claiming a total of 27 medals. That’s 17 more than the US in third place.

XII

In 1980, the Winter Olympics came back to the US after 20 years and back to Lake Placid after 48 years. By now humanity had discovered how to make snow and used the magic in Lake Placid for the first time.

Depending on your age and level of interest, some names like Ingmar Stenmark [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingemar\_Stenmark] (Alpine Skiing), Alexander Tikhonov [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\_Tikhonov ] (Biathlon) and Eric Heiden [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric\_Heiden ] (4 Olympic and 1 World record in Speed skating) ring some bells. But the most iconic star of the 1980 Olympics is the US ice hockey team. Consisting mainly of college players, it beat the four-time consecutive Gold medalists USSR 4:3 in a legendary match hitherto referred to as the ‘Miracle on Ice’. Amidst dark Cold War times this game had special meaning and was crowned by a Gold medal win against Finland. Sports Illustrated didn’t need words on their title to explain what happened:

**1980\_miracle\_on\_ice.jpg**

**By Source, Fair use, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25356046**

XIII

Sarajevo was a surprise host with bets favouring Sapporo (who tried again) and Gothenburg in Sweden. But although it was off to a bumpy start with the Olympic flag being raised upside down by mistake, the first Games under IOC president Juan Antonia Samaranch [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan\_Antonio\_Samaranch] went smoothly.

Hosting the Olympics understandably boosts the home team’s performance which in the case of Yugoslavia led to their first medal ever during Winter Games (Juan Franko won Silver in the Giant Slalom). But one of the most memorable medals of the Games was won by the British ice dance duo Torvill and Dean [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2zbbN4OL98] who earned themselves the Gold medal with a perfect score – which looks like this: 6.0, 6.0, 6.0, 6.0, 6.0, 6.0, 6.0. A feat never accomplished before or since.

These were also the years of solid growth. If you check the *Nations and medals* multiple you can see quite a few nation squares being added during 1984, 88 and 90. There were a total of 49 nations participating in Sarajevo, a 32% increase from 37 in Lake Placid. Albertville in 1990 will already welcome 64 nations a plus of 73%.

*------------------- changed from here -------------------*

XIV

Calgary upped the Games a little. It hosted the first Olympics that spanned over three weekends – 16 days in total (around 12 days was normal for some time before). New events like the Super Giant Slalom and the Alpine Combined were added.

Athletes like Alberto ‘La Bomba’ Tomba [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberto\_Tomba], Matti Nykänen [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matti\_Nyk%C3%A4nen] and Kati Witt [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katarina\_Witt] collected medals. One East German athlete, Christa Rothenburger [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christa\_Luding-Rothenburger], even managed to write history across two Games. She won a Speed Skating Gold in Calgary to go on and win a Silver medal seven months later during the cycling events in Seoul. The only athlete that ever won a medal in Winter and Summer Games within a year.

**rothenburger\_skate.jpg**

**By Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1988-0830-004 / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5346795**

**rothenburger\_bike.jpg**

**By Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1987-0626-027 / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5346174**

On the other but surely more likeable end of the spectrum Eddie ‘The Eagle’ Edwards [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie\_%22The\_Eagle%22\_Edwards] came last in both of his Ski-jumping events but became an instant celebrity. He went from earning £6k a year as a plasterer to £10k an hour for all sorts of appearances. The immediate IOC reaction was to change regulation eliminating each nation’s right to send at least one athlete to each event. A shame also for teams like the legendary Jamaican Bobsleigh team that in fact managed to become 31st out of 40.

XV

In 1992 the world looked a little different to 1988. After the fall of communism and the Berlin Wall, Germany participated as a unified team again. The Baltics competed as separate teams as did the former parts of Yugoslavia.

**berlin\_wall.jpg**

**By Lear 21 at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3692038**

As you can see on the map, the Games themselves were also rather split apart as only 18 from 57 events were held in Albertville. The rest were spread out over the Savoie Alps.

On a positive note, the gender ratio is slowly increasing, yet still under a third of all athletes were women. One of them, Anneliese Coberger [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annelise\_Coberger] from New Zealand, however, wrote history by winning the first ever Winter Olympic medal for the Southern Hemisphere.

XVI

1992 was the last year Summer and Winter Games were held in the same year. From hereon each year each sibling got their own year to shine. To not let the Winter Olympic world wait for another 6 years, the next games were staged just after 2 years in 1994.

Lillehammer as the host city saw two very interesting, if opposite interpretations of the Olympic spirit. On the questionable side, figure skater Tony Harding [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonya\_Harding] and her husband thought it a good idea to break her competitor Nancy Kerrigan’s [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy\_Kerrigan] legs with a telescopic baton before the Games to prevent her participation. That failed (good for the gender ratio), got uncovered and ended in a ban for life from professional figure skating and other distasteful consequences for Harding.

**tonya\_harding.jpg**

**By Andrew Parodi - Own work, CC BY 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4055597**

***Tonya Harding arriving in the US after the 1994 Olympics***

On the much more likeable side, Lillehammer saw the Bosnia-Herzegovina 4-men bob occupied by two Bosnians, one Croatian and one Serb amidst the Bosnian War.

XVII

Back in Japan the Winter Games of 1998 were the first with more than 2000 athletes (first time more than a third were women) competing in 68 events arriving from 72 countries, including for example Kenya, Uruguay and Venezuela for the first time.

Snowboarding became official and started appropriately with Canadian Ross Rebagliati [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross\_Rebagliati] nicking Gold before being disqualified for testing positive for marijuana.

**ross\_rebagliati.jpg**

**By Paddysmyth - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46533505**

***Ross Rebagliati 2013***

Rather unrelaxed yet heroic was Hermann Maier’s [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann\_Maier] appearance. He produced one of the most spectacular falls in the Downhill, flying off the slope at 120km/h and remaining air-bound for over 3 seconds. He recovered within days to win Gold in both the Super-G and the Giant Slalom.

**hermann\_maier.jpg**

XVIII

The 2002 games were labeled one of the financially more successful Winter Games. That’s noteworthy as Olympic Games are usually gigantic loss-making machines. However, the organisation committee ended up making a profit (still an overall loss throwing in the state funding – yet dwarfed by loss-making giants like Sochi).

One of the more memorable stories was written in the men’s short-track competition. Australian skater Steven Bradbury [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAADWfJO2qM] cruised off-pace in the 1000m semi-finals when he saw three of his competitors fall opening him a safe passage to the final. And luck (his luck that is) struck again when he was also rather behind in the final before this time all four of his competitors slipped and sailed off, while Steven cruised – still off-pace, but who cares – to a Gold medal.

Another memorable Gold medal was won by the Canadian ice hockey team beating the US on home turf and ending a Gold-less streak of 50 years. Apparently there was a Canadian dollar under the final ice in support of the team. Legend goes on attributing this deed to Wayne Gretzky who was friends with the ice-keeper.

**wayne\_gretzky.jpg**

**By Hakandahlstrom (Håkan Dahlström)Later versions were uploaded by IrisKawling at en.wikipedia. - Originally from en.wikipedia; description page is/was here. Can also be found at Flickr, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3545164**

XIX

With a population of nearly a million Turin became the largest city ever hosting a Winter Olympics (until Vancouver came along 4 years later). It also became the largest Olympic Games in terms of athlete, nation and event numbers. A yet common fate shared with most Winter Olympics when compared to their predecessor. A fate unique to Turin was that it could in fact be viewed on mobile phones for the first time.

Have a look at the treemap multiple to see how Biathlon has been gaining momentum during the Winter Olympics in the past years, and in 2002 made it to the top 3 in terms of number of events for the first time – sharing the spot with Alpine Skiing.

But it was during a Cross-country skiing event (the discipline with the most events) the mystic Olympic Spirit sparked up again. When Sara Renner [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sara\_Renner] of Canada broke one of her poles in the cross-country skiing team sprint, Norwegian head coach Bjørnar Håkensmoen [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bj%C3%B8rnar\_H%C3%A5kensmoen] lent her one of his (albeit 12cm too long).

**ski\_pole.jpg**

**By Amer Sports - http://www.mynewsdesk.com/se/amer-sports/images/salomon-s-lab-carbon-248091, CC BY 3.0,** [**https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46684292**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46684292)

This act of fair play and sportsmanship allowed Renner to help her team win silver, and dropped Norway out of the medals.

XX

The 20th Winter Olympics turned tragic before they started. Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nodar_Kumaritashvili>] was thrown off track at a speed of 144 km/h and died. In a test event a year before the president of the International Luge Federation commented on the track’s top speed of 154km/h with the words “It makes me worry”. The Opening Ceremony some hours later went under way including flags at half-staff and a minute of silence.

**opening\_vancouver.jpg**

**By Jude Freeman - originally posted to Flickr as \_MG\_4715, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9497185**

Kumaritashvili became the fourth athlete to die at Winter Olympic Games.

The Vancouver games were also notable for the below-average performance of the Russian team and the above-average performance of the Asian countries. Never below the top 5 since their debut in 1956, Russia finished 6th in total medals inviting President Medvedev to call for the resignation of top officials in the run up to the Russian home Olympics four years later. On a positive note, Asian countries won a total of 31 medals more than doubling the 15 medals they won just 8 years before. The overall medal table was topped by the US with a record breaking 37 medals. Have a look at the Nations and medal visual and find especially China, South Korea and Japan doing rather well.

On another positive note, Vancouver reached the highest women’s ratio of all Games with 1,044 of 2,566 athletes being women – or 41%. Nearly there !

XXI

Sochi was generally considered a little odd to place Winter Olympics as it boasts a subtropical climate with an average 8 degrees in Februray. Most of the outdoor events were hosted in the Krasnaya Polyana ski resort around 70 km from Sochi – but still.

Russia did pretty well after their 2010 low point, winning the total medal count before the US and Norway. However, you would need to ignore the large-scale state-backed Russian doping system between 2011 and 2015 in order to enjoy the medal table as a true representation of performance.

A (very likely) truly outstanding performance was accomplished by the most decorated Winter Olympian: Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjørndalen [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ole_Einar_Bj%C3%B8rndalen>] who took two Golds to bring his total Olympic tally to 13 medals, overtook his compatriot Bjørn Dæhlie [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bj%C3%B8rn_D%C3%A6hlie>] to become the most decorated Winter Olympian of all time.

**bjorndalen.jpg**

**By Tor Atle Kleven from Trondheim, Norway - Ole Einar Bjorndalen: IBU World Cup winner 2009Uploaded by EnemyOfTheState, CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9461022**

Another Norwegian, cross-country skier Marit Bjørgen [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marit_Bj%C3%B8rgen>] powered herself to three Gold’s, making it a total of 10 Olympic medals. A tally only 2 other women can equal.

XXI

Right then. What next? The Winter Olympics will continue to rub snow into our faces every 4 years. Next time in 2018 in the city of Pyeongchang in South Korea and in 2022 in Beijing, China (didn’t they just..?). We’ll probably see more nations, over 100 events (Pyeongchang is likely to see 102 events), nearly 3,000 athletes and maybe even an equal gender ratio at some point…