**Exciting head to head in Pole Vault**

**In the men’s pole vault, the Olympic Champion and world record holder Renaud Lavillenie (FRA) will go head to head with the current World Champion, Shawn Barber (CAN) in one of the most eagerly awaited events.**

With six Diamond Trophies already, the experienced Lavillenie currently leads the Diamond Race with 26 points following his win in Oslo last week.

Meanwhile, Shawn Barber, who pushed him hard in Oslo, is in second place with 16 points.  They will be looking to better the 2016 world lead, Sam Kendricks with 5.93m from Beijing in May.

Local favourite, Melker Svard Jacobsson, will have the crowd support and will look to better his personal best of 5.70m.

Speaking ahead of tomorrow’s event, **Renaud Lavillenie** said:

“After a good winter season finishing with winning the World Indoors, I am looking forward to a good summer.  So far the weather hasn’t been too good. I want to be jumping 6m but it has been too cold and windy.

“My goal is to win the Europeans and the Olympics so height may not matter.  But I want to jump high.  Some good weather would help.”

Asked about the football Euros in France, he added: “I am a big sports fan.  I enjoyed watching France in their first game and I hope they can reach the final so I can see them in that the weekend after the final of the pole vault in the European Chmapionships!”

**Melker Svard Jacobsson**said

“In 2014 I had surgery on my hips followed in 2015 with a hernia operation.  Now in April this year I am back with my first competition and jumped my personal best 5.70m. I felt I could jump well but I did not expect to be eighth in the world at this time. I will be very happy if I can make the team for the Euros and the Olympics. I do think I can jump 5.80m.  It is all about getting it all together on the day.

“I competed as a senior for the first time here in 2014 so I am excited to be back.  Tomorrow I need to do some good, stable jumps and hope the weather is good.”

**Taylor aims for Stadium Record**

Christian Taylor (USA) leads the triple jump Diamond Race with 20 points.  He will face stiff competition tomorrow from Cuban, Alexis Copello who took the full ten points in Oslo last week, and fellow American, Omar Craddock.

Taylor said “I competed here in 2012 so it was very special as I secured the Diamond Race here.  The Stadium record [17.93m] is definitely a possibility.

“2016 is moving in the right direction I had some fun in Birmingham with the long jump.  I want to carry on having fun.  I want someone to step up and challenge me. I am keen to go for the meeting record.  I am sure I have 18m in me after hitting it four times last year.  But to get the adrenaline I need someone to challenge me.  Competition really fuels me.

“I want points here for the Diamond Race.  But, of course, Rio is very special.  I saw the Olympic medals yesterday.  Just thinking about it gives me butterflies. Tomorrow is a good field and should be a really good competition."