

The President of the Israel Cycling Federation visits the UCI

Dr. Yoni Yarom, President of the Israel Federation, will travel to Aigle on the 5th of April 2004 to meet the UCI President, Hein Verbruggen, and visit the World Cycling Centre (WCC).

Mr. Verbruggen will tell him about the training programmes followed by athletes at the WCC and the new coach training programme set up by the UCI with the support of Olympic Solidarity.

2004 Athens Olympic Games: test events and preparations on the right track

In the context of preparing for the 2004 Olympic Games, Mr. Olivier Quéguiner, cycling general technical delegate for the Olympic Games, will visit Athens on the 5th and 6th of April 2004 for a co-ordination meeting with the organising committee of the event (ATHOC). Their discussions will focus on supervision of the test events planned for the 15th and 16th of May for mountain bike and from the 9th to 12th of June for track cycling.

Progress on construction of the velodrome will also be on the agenda. A site visit will be organised.

The UCI is delighted to announce that the [velodrome roof](#) was recently completed, with the main structure being successfully put in place on the 28th of March 2004.

Track riders in Manchester

The Manchester velodrome will host the third and penultimate heat of the UCI Track World Cup "Classics" from the 9th to 11th of April.

The world's top specialists will take part in this event. The Track World Cup continues to go from strength to strength: the number of riders taking part has once again increased, and the event will bring together more than 300 specialists representing 43 countries. They will include road stars like the Scot David Millar, time trial World Champion, and the Australian Brad McGee, former World Champion and bronze medal winner at the Sydney Olympic Games in the individual pursuit.

The Manchester competitions will be broadcast live on the BBC, a sign of the ever-increasing interest of the media in the UCI Track World Cup "Classics".

The best Australian pursuit specialists at the WCC

The 12 best Australian pursuit specialists will be training at the WCC from the 2nd to 8th of April 2004 to ensure they arrive in excellent shape for the third competition of the UCI Track World Cup "Classics" in Manchester. Among them will be three of the four members of the 2003 world champion team in the team pursuit event, Graeme Brown, Brett Lancaster and Peter Dawson. Brad McGee (2002 World Champion, bronze medal winner at the Sydney and Atlanta Games in the individual pursuit), Mark Jamieson (individual pursuit 2002 Junior World Champion), Mark Renshaw (8th in the 2003 World Championships in the Madison and Scratch races and gold medal winner in the 2003, 2002 and 2001 World Cups points race) as well as Kate Bates (8th in the 2003 World Championships individual pursuit) and Alison Wright (9th in the 2003 World Championships individual pursuit) will also be on the track of the WCC velodrome.

First UCI high-level BMX Training Camp

From the 9th to 23rd of April, the UCI will host the first high-level BMX training programme in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (China). Under the guidance of Michel Lalande, the distinguished French BMX trainer, a group of 15 athletes and 5 coaches will follow an advanced BMX training and coaching programme. This high-level programme is intended for young athletes aiming to participate in the 2008 Olympic Games. The training will also include a coaching programme designed for coaches who want to improve their skills.

Japan confirms its interest in cycling

The UCI recently signed a 3-year contract with the programme distributor Japanese Media International Corporation (MICO) to broadcast pictures from the UCI Track and Road World Championships. The programmes will be broadcast on the NHK channel and on the flights of Japan Airlines.

Phonak, UCI Track World Cup "Classics" partner

The UCI is delighted to announce the signature of a partnership contract with Phonak for the heat of the UCI Track World Cup "Classics" which will take place from the 9th to 11th of April 2004 in Manchester, Great Britain.

On the cobbles in Flanders

The UCI Road World Cup will be a double event this weekend: the Ronde van Vlaanderen/Tour des Flandres, one of the biggest classics of the season, will be included in the programme of the women's series for the first time.

The race, which will be run over a course of 94 km between Oudenaarde and Meerbeke, will have the difficulties typical of the men's event, in particular the cobbled sections and historic "walls" such as those of Grammont and Bosberg. After Geelong, La Primavera Rosa and the Gran Premio de Castilla y León, the Ronde van Vlaanderen /Tour des Flandres, will certainly reinforce the very positive trend in the UCI Women's Road World Cup, which in 2004 has seen a significant increase in the registration of trade teams and excellent participation level in all races.

The 88th Ronde van Vlaanderen/Tour des Flandres for men, the second event in the UCI Road World Cup after Milan-San Remo, will take place between Bruges and Meerbeke, over a distance of 257 km with 18 "walls".

For more information: www.uci.ch

The following riders were sanctioned for doping offences:

Paolo PREVIS DOMINI, sanctioned by the **Federazione Ciclistica Italiana**, disqualification of Masters MTB World Championships 2003, suspension of 1 month from 1st February 2004 to 29 February 2004. **Fabio TESTI**, sanctioned by the **Federazione Ciclistica Italiana**, disqualification of Giro del Veneto 2003, suspension of 2 years from 1st December 2003 to 1st December 2005 and fine of CHF 2'000.-. **Stefan STEINWEG**, acquittal by the **Court of Arbitration for Sport** on 15th September 2003. **Amber NEBEN**, sanctioned by **North American Court of Arbitration for Sport**, disqualification of Coupe du Monde cycliste feminine de Montréal 2003 (CAN), suspension of 6 months from 13 July 2003 to 13 January 2004 and fine of CHF 700.-.