

## Extension of UCI-Shimano partnership contract

The International Cycling Union has extended its partnership contract with the Japanese company Shimano until 2008. A world leader in cycle components, Shimano has been a partner of the UCI since 1999. The contract, signed in Beijing by Yoshizo Shimano, the company Chairman, and Hein Verbruggen, UCI President, means that Shimano will provide the necessary technical support at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, a role that the company already played this year in Athens.

Shimano will also continue to be the UCI's official supplier of technical and mechanical services during the UCI World Championships and the UCI Road, Mountain Bike, Track and Cyclo-cross World Cups.

## A fourth group of trainees at the WCC

Seven new track trainees, aged from 16 to 20 years old, arrived at the World Cycling Centre (WCC) in October: Alfredo Flores (Guatemala), Lisandra Guerra (Cuba), Kasper Jessen (Denmark), Michael Rodriguez (Puerto Rico), Atsushi Shibasaki (Japan), Andy Williams (New Zealand) and Wong Kin Chung (Hong Kong). They have all joined the sprinters group and will train for 9 months under the direction of the multiple World Champion Frédéric Magné, in the company of Guo Shuang (China), who will once again this year prepare for future competitions at the WCC.

These new arrivals are the fourth group of WCC trainees and replace Ross Edgar (Great Britain), Tsubasa Kitatsuru (Japan), Daniela Larreal (Venezuela), Amed Lopez (Cuba), Wilson Meneses (Colombia), Josiah Ng (Malaysia), Szilvia Szabolcsi (Hungary), Christos Tserentzoulis (Greece) and Yang Hee Chun (South Korea).

The results obtained by track trainees since the launch of the programme in 2002 are very encouraging. Highlights include two Junior World Champion titles, several World Cup victories, two finalist wins in the World Cup and the participation of 7 trainees at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

## UCI International Commissaires: innovations in the training programme

A training seminar for new UCI International Commissaires was organised at the WCC from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2004. The course clearly showed that in terms of the general level of candidates, the work done to improve the quality of teaching delivered is producing better results. For the last three years, the seminar leaders chosen by the UCI regularly take trainer courses intended to increase their level of professionalism. Other notable

improvements also include the increased use of practical casework, both during the courses and in examinations, and the upgrading of the teaching materials used.

## A Tartan athletics track for the WCC

A Tartan athletics track will be added to the infrastructure of the World Cycling Centre in December 2004. Installed on the upper promenade running along the seating around the velodrome, this 252m. track will be a first in Switzerland. It will provide additional facilities for athletes from the ranks of the Swiss Athletics Federation and the regional clubs which regularly use the WCC, and will be an appreciable addition for all its other users.

In addition to the velodrome with its wood-covered 200m. track, the WCC also contains a multi-purpose sports pitch, gymnastics area, weight-training room, the UCI headquarters, teaching and conference rooms and a restaurant. The facility is completed by an external BMX track.

More information is available on [www.cmc-aigle.ch](http://www.cmc-aigle.ch) or [www.cmc-wcc.com](http://www.cmc-wcc.com).

## New address for the WCC Internet site

In the very near future, the official Internet site of the World Cycling Centre ([www.cmc-aigle.ch](http://www.cmc-aigle.ch)) can be accessed also by typing [www.cmc-wcc.com](http://www.cmc-wcc.com). The old address will continue to be active as well. The new address shows the international scope of the Centre, as it includes both its French and English abbreviations.

## The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences

**José Antonio HERRERO**, sanctioned by **Federacion Costarricense de Ciclisme**, suspension of 2 years from 27 August 2004 to 28 August 2006. **David MILLAR**, sanctioned by **British Cycling Federation**, disqualification of the Vuelta a España 2001, the Dauphiné Libéré 2003 and Road World Championship 2003 - Time Trial, suspension of 2 years from 5 August 2004 to 4 August 2006, and fine of CHF 2'000.-. **Kristien NELEN**, sanctioned by **Royale Ligue Vélocipédique Belge**, disqualification of the race UCI MTB World Cup, Houffalize (BEL), 30.05.2004, suspension of 6 months from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004 to 31 July 2005 and fine of CHF 750.-. **Geert STEURS**, sanctioned by **Royale Ligue Vélocipédique Belge**, disqualification of the race Volta ao Algarve (POR), 22.02.2004, suspension of 15 months and 9 months deferment from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004 to 31 January 2006 and fine of CHF 2'000.-.