

### 2005 UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships in St-Wendel: record TV audience in Belgium

The Belgian Flemish channel VRT recorded exceptional audience figures last weekend with the UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships in St-Wendel (Belgium). Around 1 million TV viewers watched Sven Nijis and his two Belgian teammates ride to victory in the Elite race. This figure represents 66.5% of the market (2 TV viewers out of 3 watched the race). The final figures from all countries will be released by the UCI Commercial Department in a few weeks. We can already confirm that these Championships were a great success in terms of television viewing.

### Visit by the Supervision Committee for the 2006 UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships in Zeddum

The Supervision Committee for the 2006 Cyclo-cross World Championships, headed by Laurent De Backer, UCI Vice-President, carried out in January a visit of the venue for the 2006 UCI Cyclo-Cross World Championships in Zeddum, in the Netherlands. The Committee found the circuit both quick and very technical. Although it felt that some changes must still be made to the circuit and some work carried out in order to meet the requirements in terms of logistics, the Supervision Committee nonetheless stated that it was sure that the event would meet the expectations of organisers and UCI requirements.

### UCI ProTour: the Tour of Poland elected « Best sporting event of 2004» by the readers of the «Sporting Review»

The Tour of Poland has been voted «Best sporting event of 2004» by the readers of the Polish «Sporting Review». It was at the 70th Sporting Gala, on 8th January last, that the award was given to the organisers of the race. The ceremony gave awards to the 10 best Polish sports personalities of the year, and the best event in the country. The Tour of Poland was rewarded for its excellent organisation, the very good level of media coverage and the quality of its welcome. This prize confirms the high level of the organisation of the Tour of Poland, the 61st edition being held this year from 12th to 18th September. This race is one of the 27 races in the UCI ProTour, which will begin on 6th March 2005 with Paris-Nice.

### Programme for the 2005 UCI Trials World Cup

The Management Committee agreed on the calendar for rounds of the 2005 UCI Trials World Cup at its meeting which was held in St-Wendel, on 28th January last. The dates are as follows:

Date	Event
07-08.05.2005	First round: Madrid (Spain)
09-10.07.2005	Second round: Graz (Austria)
10-11.09.2005	Finals: Lausanne (Switzerland)

The first round of the 2005 UCI Trials World Cup will take place in Madrid, at the same time as the traditional UCI Mountain Bike World Cup race. The event will be held in the famous public park the 'Casa del Campo', located 10 minutes from the centre of Madrid. For the second year running, the second round of the UCI Trials World Cup will be held in the heart of Graz, Austria. Last year, this round proved very successful with the public.

The finals of the UCI Trials World Cup will take place in Lausanne as part of the Urban Contest festival. In 2004, more than 100,000 spectators watched this event, where the trials competitions were a great success.

### UCI International Commissaires' Conference at the World Cycling Centre

International Commissaires in charge of ensuring the smooth running of UCI ProTour races and the five UCI Continental Circuits will take part in a conference on 5th and 6th February at the federation's headquarters.

On Saturday, around fifty Commissaires working at UCI ProTour races will be able to see what responsibilities they will have this season, be informed about the new rules and the new equipment provided for them to help them carry out their work.

On Sunday, a similar programme will be organised for their colleagues working on the UCI Continental Circuits. On this occasion Commissaires will have the opportunity of meeting the new Road deputy coordinator, in charge of Women's cycling, Marc Chovelon.

### AISTS students visit the International Cycling Union headquarters

On 4th February, 34 students from the International Academy of Sports Science and Technology (AISTS), research and training centre and interdisciplinary training based at the Lausanne Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), founded in particular by the IOC, were welcomed at the International Cycling Union headquarters.

The day began with a speech by Dieter Schellenberg, UCI Director General (presentation of the UCI and WCC) and continued with a series of presentations by Alain Rumpf, Professional Cycling Manager (UCI ProTour), Frédéric Magné, Sports Activities Manager and Track coach (the UCI policy of development) and Olivier Quéguiner, Sports Coordination Manager (International Federations and Olympic Games). The day ended with an initiation of track cycling organised at the World Cycling Centre track, under the supervision of Frédéric Magné, seven-times World Champion.

### The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

**Philippe MEIRHAEGHE**, tested positive for EPO at an out-of-competition test (WADA) on 25th June 2004, sanctioned by the **BELGIAN CYCLING FEDERATION**, 48 months suspension 33 with a suspended sentence and 15 months effective from 15th October 2004 to 14th January 2006, disqualification of results obtained between 1st and 30th June 2004. **Philip-Nicholas NIELSEN**, tested positive for prednisolone and metabolites at the Juniors 'Tour de Lorraine' (FRA) on 29th May 2004, sanctioned by the **DANMARKS CYKLE UNION**, warning and fine of CHF 50.- (art. 64 RCAD). **Yuri DEMANOV**, tested positive for hCG at the Masters Road World Championships (AUT) on 25th August 2004, sanctioned by the **RUSSIAN CYCLING FEDERATION**, one year suspension from 30th October 2004 to 30th October 2005, disqualification from the race. **Jesus ROSENDO PRADO** tested positive for betamethasone at the 'Volta a Tarragona' (ESP) on 5th June 2004, sanctioned by the **REAL FEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE CICLISMO**, fine of 601€ (art. 64 RCAD).