

This weekend in Madrid: 2nd round of the UCI Cross-country Mountain Bike World Cup and launch of the 2005 UCI Trials World Cup

This weekend, Madrid will host the second round of the 2005 UCI Cross-country Mountain Bike World Cup in the Casa del Campo park, as well as the first round of the 2005 UCI Trials World Cup.

Grouped together at the World Championships for the last several years, the two disciplines will be held at the same time in Madrid, a big first for the World Cup. The new format is certain to please Mountain Biking fans and will also appeal to the world of Trials since organisers have taken the bold step of installing some Trials competition areas on the 'Plaza España', right in the centre of the city.

Tour de Romandie: exceptional participation levels

Eleventh race in the UCI ProTour, the Tour de Romandie (26th April to 1st May 2005) enjoyed exceptional participation levels, a direct result of its inclusion in the UCI ProTour circuit. Damiano Cunego (world no 1 in 2004), Alessandro Petacchi, Davide Rebellin, Stefano Garzelli, Joseba Beloki, Roberto Heras, Santiago Botero, Erik Dekker, Thomas Voeckler and Laurent Brochard, to mention just a few, took part.

With reference to the UCI ranking published at the end of the 2004 season, it can be noted that 8 of the 20 best riders from last season participated in the Tour de Romandie, i.e. nearly half. Out of the best 100, the percentage amounts to a third.

This encouraging situation made the winner's task particularly difficult. Jacques Michaud, Sports Director of the Phonak team, in reply to the journalist who made the comment that their leaders were not the only ones aiming for victory and asked him who their main opponents were, said:

«There are many because with the ProTour, the best riders are competing. Those that represent the biggest danger are the riders from the Liberty team. On paper, Beloki, Contador, Vicioso are a threat... But we shouldn't forget the Italian Cunego, who is competing in this Tour de Romandie to finish his training for the Tour of Italy. With the ProTour, there are no more training races. All races are top quality, important and open ».

World Cycling Centre: training course for amateur riders, run by Mountain Biking champions and specialists

On 11th and 12th June 2005, the World Cycling Centre will organise a coaching and training course for all those practicing endurance Mountain Biking and who want to extend their training knowledge.

The course, which is specifically designed to prepare for the Grand Raid Cristalp, marathon race entered on the Swiss Cycling calendar which will take place on 21st August 2005, will deal with training planning, nutrition and health, and

offer technical workshops (technique for pedalling, downhill, bends, braking, circuit to test skills and position on the bike). The training given will be top quality since coaching specialists, sports doctors and champions such as Chantal Daucourt, European Mountain Biking Champion, Marlyse Tercier and Christophe Manin, two-times winner of the Grand Raid Cristalp and Hervé Krebs, two-times Vice-World Champion and two-times BMX European Champion will put their talent and knowledge at the service of participants. Programme and entries at www.cmc-wcc.com.

Representatives of the Turkish Federation at the UCI

Hein Verbruggen will receive a visit on 10th May 2005 from Messrs Muftuoglu and Açikalin, respectively President and Vice-President of the Turkish Cycling Federation. At the occasion of this first visit at the UCI Head Office, they will be informed about the UCI cycling development plans in the world and will discover the numerous training possibilities offered by the facilities at the World Cycling Centre.

The following riders were sanctioned:

David PEREZ INIGUEZ (ESP19801230), tested positive with triamcinolone acetonide during the race Bira (ESP) on 30th June, 1, 2, 3 and 4th July 2004, sanctioned by **Real Federacion Española de Ciclismo**, fine of 601€ (art. 64 AER). **Alexis RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ** (ESP19770427), tested positive with triamcinolone acetonide during the Troféu Joaquim Agostinho GP Int. de Ciclismo de Torres Vedras (POR) on 9th July 2004, sanctioned by **Real Federacion Española de Ciclismo**, fine of 601€ (art. 64 AER). **David MILLAR** (GBR19770104), sanctioned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for admission of doping, disqualification of the Vuelta a España 2001, the Dauphiné Libéré 2003 and Road World Championships 2003 - Time Trial, suspension of 2 years from 24 June 2004 to 23 June 2006 and fine of CHF 2'000.-. **Laura Suzanne ISRAEL** (FRA19850308), tested positive with heptaminol during the Coupe de France VTT on 30th August 2003, sanctioned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), suspension of 4 months from 1st February 2005 to 31st May 2005, fine of CHF 1'000.-, disqualification of the race.