

Death of Mr Michal Jekiel, Honorary Secretary-General of the International Cycling Union

The International Cycling Union is deeply saddened to announce the passing away of its Honorary Secretary General, Mr Michal Jekiel.

Mr Jekiel who was 95 years old, devoted almost 50 years of his life to cycling, and assumed with great skill and diplomacy the functions of UCI Management Committee Member (1956-1965), Vice-President (1965-1969), Secretary General (1969-1992), Management Committee Adviser (1993-1997) then Honorary General Secretary from 1993.

Originally from Poland, this polyglot who spoke several languages fluently, previously served in the army for his country from 1939 to 1952 and then became Vice-President of the Polish Committee for Sport and Tourism (1952-1969). The International Cycling Union extends its sincerest condolences to his wife and family and shares their sorrow at this difficult time.

The Moldovan WCC trainee, Alexandr Pliuschin, becomes World Vice-Champion

On 12 August 2005, the Moldovan Alexandr Pliuschin took the time trial silver medal at the UCI Juniors Road World Championships in Austria. He completed the 23.5 km course at an average speed of over 54 km/h, being pipped to the title by a mere 5 seconds.

He follows in the footsteps of other World Cycling Centre (WCC) trainees Sifiso Nhlapo (South Africa), who recently took the title of BMX Juniors World Champion in the Cruiser category, and Lisandra Guerra (Cuba), twice Track Juniors World Champion in the 500 m time trial (with a new world record to boot) and the individual sprint. Like them, he is making a name for himself at the highest level.

These exceptional performances bring the number of medals won by WCC trainees at UCI World Championships to 8 since the centre opened in 2002.

Opening of a Continental Centre in South Africa

On 1 August 2005, in Cape Town, a new Continental Centre opened its doors to 20 young cyclists from 12 African countries, there to embark on a 3-month coaching and training course.

These young hopefuls, all Juniors or Under 23s, are being trained on road and track (at the Bellville velodrome) by Jean-Pierre Van Zyl, UCI Consultant for the African continent and former track cyclist.

The opening of this new Continental Centre is part of the UCI policy for sustainable development in cycling on all continents.

To date, 6 Continental Centres (Russia, China, Japan, Australia, Cuba and South Africa) have signed up young up-and-coming cyclists hoping to reach the highest level and some day fulfill their dreams of participating in their discipline in UCI World Cups and Championships and in the Olympic Games.

Training and development: a second life for WCC cycles

What becomes of the bikes used by athletes at the World Cycling Centre (WCC) when they receive new equipment from the UCI sponsors? These bikes are still in excellent condition and can still be used for training and or even in competition. As part of its development programmes, the International Cycling Union has recently donated some such bikes to the Cycling Association of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (10 road bikes), to the Armenian National Technical Centre (26 road bikes) and to the new South-African Continental Centre (10 road bikes and 10 track bikes). Equipment has also been sent this year to the Cuban Continental Centre in Havana. A total of sixty or so bikes have been made available this year to National and Continental Centres that needed them.

Visit to Egypt by the UCI Consultant to Africa

From 7 to 9 September this year, Jean-Pierre Van Zyl, UCI Consultant and Manager of the Continental Centre in Cape Town, South Africa, will be heading over to Egypt to meet Dr Wagih Azzam, President of the African Cycling Confederation and member of the UCI Management Committee, and Mrs Dominique Raymond, Head of Continental Confederation and National Federation Relations, to demonstrate the Centre's coaching and training activities. They will also discuss the UCI cycling development policy and the organization and preparations for the African Continental Championships.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

Oriol COLOMER (ESP), tested positive with triamcinolone acetone during the l'Area Metropolitana on 21st August 2004, sanctioned by REAL FEDERACION ESPANOLA DE CICLISMO, fine of € 601.-. **Krasimir DIMITROV** (BUL), tested positive with testosterone during the Tour of Hellas on 18th April 2005, sanctioned by the UNION BULGARE DE CYCLISME, suspension of 2 years from 2^{1st} May 2005 to 2^{1st} May 2007, disqualification of the race. **Eduardo GARITO GAMBOA** (CRC), tested positive with Phentermine during the Vuelta a Costa Rica on 14th March 2005, sanctioned by the FEDERACION COSTARRICENSE DE CICLISMO, suspension of 2 years from 14th March 2005 to 14th March 2007, disqualification of the race, fine of CHF 1'000.-. **Amy MOSEN** (NZL), tested positive with terbutaline during the event Womens World Cup on 27th February 2005, sanctioned by the BIKE NEW ZEALAND, warning and reprimand. **Alexandr OSMAK** (KAZ), tested positive with salbutamol during the event Grand Prix of Sochi on 24th April 2005, sanctioned by the KAZAKHSTAN CYCLING FEDERATION, suspension of 1 year from 2^{1st} June 2005 to 2^{1st} June 2006, disqualification of the race. **David ZUBIAUR** (ESP), tested positive with triamcinolone acetone during the event Premio Asteasu de Ciclo-Cross on 6th January 2005, sanctioned by the FEDERACION ESPANOLA DE CICLISMO, suspension of 2 years from 2nd June 2005 to 2nd June 2007, disqualification of the race.