

Pat McQuaid is the new President of the UCI

Irishman Pat McQuaid was elected President of the UCI at the Congress held today in Madrid.

Mr McQuaid won with 31 votes, beating the 11 obtained by Spanish candidate Gregorio Moreno.

A former pro rider at the end of the 1970s, Pat McQuaid (56) has also been Coach of the Irish Cycling Federation (1981-1984), President of the Irish Cycling Federation (1994-1998) and has over twenty years' experience in the organisation of cycling races.

Tour de Pologne: the UCI ProTour discovers the East

Starting off from Gdansk on 12th September, the Tour de Pologne which ended last Sunday in Orlinek after a week of very close competition, has achieved its status of a major international race. Raced over a distance of 1280 km, the Tour de Pologne is one of the best organised races thanks to the commitment of Czeslaw Lang and his team, who in 13 years, have transformed it from an amateur race to a major calendar event.

The Tour de Pologne is an interesting alternative to the Vuelta and enables teams to evolve at the highest level in Eastern Europe.

At the end of the race, won by Kim Kirchen (LUX), the Italian Danilo Di Luca increased his lead even more in the UCI ProTour ranking.

The peloton is now preparing for the road race at the World Championships in Madrid.

Five new velodromes in China: UCI evaluation visit

From 3rd to 9th October, Mark Fulcher, UCI Track Technical Delegate and Gilles Peruzzi, UCI Sports Coordinator - Track, will go to China, at the request of the Chinese Federation, in order to evaluate the new velodromes in Shanghai and Beijing. These facilities should, after the ad hoc procedure, be granted approval, which will enable them to host international events. Four of the new tracks (Nan jing, Ri zhao, Nan tong, Tian jin) measure 250m, a remarkable fact for China, where the length of tracks is mainly 333.33m.

The Nan jing velodromes will in particular host the Chinese Games (a very important event in China) in October, at which the young WCC trainee Guo Shuang has a good chance of obtaining a medal.

Third series of the Aigle 3 days event at the World Cycling Centre

On 6, 7 and 8 October next, the World Cycling Centre (WCC), will host, for the 3rd year running, the Aigle 3 day track event.

The competition gives the opportunity for young talented track riders to ride alongside or be on the same team as well-known champions, in specialities like scratch, points race madison, team sprint and keirin.

The young track riders, mainly Swiss and French, as well as WCC trainees, will ride with Champions Franco

Marvuli (SUI) and Bruno Risi (SUI), silver medallists at the Olympic Games in Athens.

Kurt Betschart (SUI), Marco Villa (ITA) and Fabio Masotti (ITA), specialists in the 6 Day races, will train the young talents and perfect their performances in preparation for the 1st race of the 6 Days season which will take place in Amsterdam from 17th to 22nd October. The Aigle 3 Day event, which is on the international calendar, is an opportunity for the public to discover top level track cycling, its various disciplines and its future champions.

For the three evenings, which will provide exciting entertainment, there will be no admission charge.

Two American Champions trained at the WCC before the World's in Madrid

From 12th to 17th September, two women athletes from the American Cycling Federation (USA Cycling), Kristin Armstrong and Christine Thorburn, attended a final preparation course at the WCC before going to the UCI Road World Championships in Madrid. Their stay will have been worthwhile since they will leave Spain with, respectively, a bronze medal and 8th place in the time-trial.

Under the supervision of their coach, Jim Miller, the two talented young women have particularly worked on racing behind a derny and appreciated the coaching facilities and dynamic environment of the WCC, which are beneficial for the athletes' concentration before a big event.

Filming of French TV drama success 'Zodiaque' at the WCC

The World Cycling Centre had the privilege of being chosen by the company CAB Production to film a few scenes from «Zodiaque II – Le Maître du Zodiaque». Several scenes of the series, which will be broadcast in 2006 on the Swiss TV channel (TSR 1) and the French channel (TF1), were filmed at the WCC on 15th September 2005.

The WCC, which was converted into a French police station for the filming, hosted the French stars Claire Keim and Francis Huster for a few powerful scenes portraying a team of masked policemen.

This new saga in five parts will begin in July 2006, two years after the Zodiaque I enquiry. The first series attracted more than 12 million TV viewers.