

Appointment of Advisors for UCI African, American and Asian Continental Circuits

On 14th and 15th November, the UCI organised a conference for future Advisors of the UCI Africa Tour, UCI America Tour and the UCI Asia Tour. Lead by Philippe Chevallier, Sports Coordinator-Road, these two days enabled Jean-Pierre and Theresia van Zyl (UCI Africa Tour), Pierre Hutsebaut (UCI America Tour) and Jamaluddin Mahmood (UCI Asia Tour) to study their 2006 duties. Continental Advisors will be responsible for relaying the UCI's development policy for Road cycling. They will support their continent with the aim of increasing Road cycling activities in Africa, America and Asia.

Road cycling: impressive increase in the number of Women's teams for 2006

Women's cycling is doing well. The proof being that 40 teams have submitted their applications for the 2006 season. Even if all of them have not been selected, this is a big increase compared to 2005 when 25 teams were registered.

The initiative by T-Mobile, already sponsor of one the best teams in the UCI ProTour, is also very welcome. In 2005, there was already a T-Mobile women's team, but they only competed in the US. The development of its team will now enable it to race in all the events in the UCI Women Road World Cup.

Conference for organisers of the 2006 UCI Road Women World Cup

Organisers of the 2006 UCI Women Road World Cup met at the World Cycling Centre on 24th November. The day's programme involved discussions on the development of the rules, in particular the new participation rules, and the conditions and requirements for organisers in terms of the quality of organisation and safety.

The 13 races in the 2006 UCI Women Road World Cup are the following: Womens World Cup-Geelong (AUS), New Zealand World Cup (NZL), Primavera Rosa (ITA), Ronde van Vlaanderen (BEL), La Flèche Wallonne Féminine (BEL), Berner-Rundfahrt (SUI), Gran Premio Castilla y Leon (ESP), La Coupe du Monde Cycliste Féminine de Montréal (CAN), Open de Suède Vargarda (SWE), The Ladies Golden Hour (DEN), GP de Plouay (FRA), Lowland International Rotterdam Tour (NED) and Rund um die Nürnberger Altstadt (GER).

It should be noted that the Swiss, Swedish and Danish races (team time-trial, which is a first) will feature for the first time in the series in 2006. Another new addition is a World Cup general team ranking.

World Cycling Centre: new coach for Road riders

The Frenchman Michel Thèze has taken over from Daniel Gisiger at the World Cycling Centre. He will be in charge of the training of Road riders and Track specialists in endurance disciplines. As for Richard Wooles he will continue to be responsible for the coaching of Track sprinters. Michel Thèze has in particular been the national coach for the French Junior Road team (1985-1986), national coach for the French Senior Road team (1987-1993) and National Deputy Technical Director in charge of the Elite section (2001-2005). At the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, the team led by Michel Thèze obtained the bronze medal in the 100 kilometres time-trial.

Training course for the Italian Cycling Federation and Swiss Cycling at the World Cycling Centre

From 20th to 22nd November, the Italian Cycling Federation paid a visit to the World Cycling Centre with its two riders. Elisa Frisoni, Annalisa Cucinotta and their coach Paolo Salvoldi devoted these two days to prepare for the UCI Track Cycling World Cup «Classics» which will be held in Manchester (GBR) from 9th to 11th December.

At only 20 years of age Elisa Frisoni already has an impressive string of victories. After three titles as Junior World Champion in 2002 (500 metres, Sprint and Keirin), she was the 2005 European Champion in the Under 23 category for the 500 metres, she also gave an excellent performance in the last World Cup and obtained the silver medal in keirin at the 2005 UCI Track Cycling World Championships. As for Annalisa Cucinotta, aged 19, she won the scratch race in the last round of the 2004-2005 UCI Track Cycling World Cup «Classics».

Swiss Cycling will also come to the WCC from 28-29 November and 5-6 December with Karin Thürig (2004 and 2005 Time-Trial World Champion and bronze medallist at the 2004 Olympic Games in the same speciality), Priska Doppmann and Carolina Lüthi.

Coaching course for the Disability Great Britain Cycling Team at the World Cycling Centre

Two athletes from the Disability Great Britain Cycling Team, Barney Storey and Anthony Kappes trained at the World Cycling Centre track on 22nd and 23rd November. This visit was part of their preparation for the upcoming IPC (International Paralympic Committee) World Championships.

UCI Indoor Cycling World Championships in Freiburg

The UCI Indoor Cycling World Championships will be held this weekend from 25th to 27th November in Freiburg, Germany. The best specialists of the discipline will be aiming for the titles of Cycle-Ball and Artistic Cycling World Champion (men individual, women individual, men's couples and women's couples).