

Shimano «Presenting Sponsor» for the 2006-2008 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup

The UCI and Shimano have signed a new sponsorship agreement for the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup for the next three years (2006-2008). Shimano will be the «Presenting Sponsor» of the series, and the only technical assistance service provider for each round. From 2006, following a change to the UCI rules, external technical assistance will be allowed at cross-country and marathon events. As a result, Shimano will provide technical assistance for the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships and the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

Awarding of Trophy to 2005 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup organisers

Each year at the end of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, the UCI has the pleasure of rewarding not only the best athletes and teams, but also the best organisers. Teams and riders awarded a trophy to the following organisers:

- Downhill and 4-Cross: Fort William (SCO)
- Cross-country: Houffalize (BEL)

In the downhill and 4-Cross, 2nd place was awarded to Balneário Camboriú (BRA) and 3rd to Mont-Sainte-Anne (CAN). As for cross-country, 2nd place went to Spa Francorchamps (BEL) and 3rd to Madrid (ESP).

Awarding of World Championships by the UCI Management Committee

The UCI Management Committee, which met in Kleve, Germany, on 27 January 2006, awarded the following Championships:

2007 Juniors World Championships:

Aguascalientes (MEX)

2008 Juniors World Championships:

Cape Town (RSA)

2008 Track Cycling World Championships:

Manchester (GBR)

2008 Mountain Bike Marathon World

Championships: Villabassa (ITA)

2007-2009 Masters Track Cycling World

Championships: Sydney (AUS)

2007-2009 Masters Cyclo-cross World

Championships: Mol (BEL)

UCI Track Cycling World Cup «Classics»: L. Guerra and G. Shuang performed brilliantly

The two trainees at the World Cycling Centre (WCC), the Cuban, Lizandra Guerra and the Chinese rider, Guo Shuang gave excellent performances at the rounds of the UCI Track Cycling World Cup «Classics» held in Manchester (9-11 December 2005) and in Los Angeles (20-22 January 2006). The first beat the Juniors 500 metres time-trial record, that she set a few months ago. With a time of 35"010", she finished fourth in the event, just behind Victoria Pendleton (GBR), who was also a WCC trainee. As for Guo Shuang she came third in the individual sprint in Manchester and obtained three medals in Los Angeles finishing 2nd in the keirin, 2nd in the 500 metres and 3rd in the sprint.

Women's Road and Track endurance course at the World Cycling Centre

From 29 January to 24 February 2006, 30 young women – aged from 16 to 25 – from 29 countries and 4 continents (Africa, America, Asia, Europe) will be staying at the World Cycling Centre (WCC) as part of a detection and proficiency programme. This is an opportunity for athletes from all over the world, sometimes from countries where cycling is developing, to experience cycling at the highest level. The course is being run by Richard Wooles, WCC Road and Track endurance coach.

Cyclo-cross: the reform continues to bear fruit

The 2005-2006 cyclo-cross season will soon be over. An opportunity to assess the situation, two years after the introduction of the discipline's reform. So far the positive aspects that have emerged are that the increase in the average number of riders competing in UCI World Cup rounds has stabilised in the Elite Men's and Women's categories (55 and 35) and has increased dramatically in the Men's Juniors and Under 23 categories (50). The UCI World Championships in Zeddum almost equalled the record number of competing countries set last year, with a total of 20 countries. From a quality point of view, it appears that several countries

have challenged the Belgian's supremacy, especially in the Juniors and Under 23 categories, promising to give us even more exciting seasons. As for the number of races organised, this has stabilised for the UCI World Cup (10 rounds) and the total number of races (110). Next year, a dozen new races are expected to be added to the calendar, which will mean more races outside of the Benelux countries.

Conference for UCI ProTour Commissaires at the World Cycling Centre

On 4 February 2006, some 40 International Commissaires responsible for ensuring the smooth running of UCI ProTour races, will take part in their annual conference at the UCI headquarters. They will be able to study the new rules and new tools given to them to help them do their job.

News in the fight against doping

On 20 and 21 January 2006, a working group of anti-doping inspectors from the main cycling countries met at the UCI headquarters, on the invitation of its anti-doping commission. Members of the group studied ways of improving the qualifications level of inspectors. Following this meeting, the UCI will produce a practical guide for them and plan to mandate IDTM (International Doping Tests & Management), a firm specialising in the management of testing, for the training of inspectors on all continents. These two measures should enable the UCI to be even more effective in its plan to fight against doping.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

Magnus ERIKSSON (SWE), failing to submit to the anti-doping test during the race UCI MTB World Cup 15, Falun (SWE) on 13th August 2005, sanctioned by the Swedish Cycling Federation, 2 years' suspension from 15th September 2005 to 14th September 2007 and disqualification of the race. **Robert NAGY** (SVK), tested positive with Testosterone during the race Österreich Rundfahrt (AUT), on 9th July 2005, sanctioned by the Slovak Cycling Federation, 2 years' suspension from 9th September 2005 to 9th September 2007

and disqualification of the race. **Andrzej PODHAJNY** (POL), tested positive with Etiocholanolone during the race Memorial Henryka Lasaka (POL), on 14th August 2005, sanctioned by the Polish Cycling Federation, 2 years' suspension from 28th September 2005 to 27th September 2007 and disqualification of the race. **Tonton SUSANTO** (INA), tested positive with Ephedrine during the race Tour of Qinghai Lake (CHN), on 16th July 2005, sanctioned by the Indonesian Cycling Federation, 1 month suspension from 1st October 2005 to 1st November 2005 and disqualification of the race.