

UCI ProTour: draft agreement with the organisers of the three grands tours

On 1st April, the day before the Tour of Flanders, at a press conference organised in Bruges (Belgium), the President of the UCI ProTour Council, Vittorio Adorni announced that a draft agreement had been reached with the organisers of the three grands tours.

This is the result of discussions that took place within the UCI working group set up by the UCI involving all parties concerned (UCI, organisers, teams and sponsors).

The working group had its last meeting the day before in Brussels.

The constituent elements of the agreement are currently being studied by the various parties and the measures will be revealed at a later date.

At a press conference, attended by around a hundred journalists, the IOC President, Jacques Rogge made a statement via filmed footage, urging all those concerned to reach an agreement in the general interest of cycling.

WCC young riders' results: countries discover the elite category

The young athletes from the World Cycling Centre (WCC) from new countries which have entered elite road cycling (Moldavia, Algeria, Korea, Colombia and Uruguay), gave excellent performances at the French and Swiss road races at the beginning of the season. Moldavia excelled thanks to the two wins by Alex Pliuschin achieved in France at the beginning of March ('Maillot des Jeunes' race, in Normandy, and the 'Course Nationale de Châteaudun', in Eure-et-Loir).

Promising results were also gained by Algeria with Abdelkader Belmokhtar finishing in second place in Normandy and for Korea with YOUM Jung Hwan and JOO Hyun Wook, who came among the first six in three national races. These excellent results are a first in the history of cycling.

The Colombian rider, Dalivier Ospina won the Grand Prix Valloton (Switzerland) and the Uruguayan, Jorge Soto came third in the 'Souvenir Gustave Koehler', in Strasbourg (France).

The Hungarian Federation at the UCI: Development of cycling on programme

On 23rd March, the UCI received a visit from the Hungarian Cycling Federation. It was represented by its President, Károly Eisenkrammer, its Vice-President, Robert Sipiczki, its Head of public relations, Csilla Tam, and Mr Adam Bodor, Government Delegate from the Ministry of Finance.

After being informed about the various possibilities offered by the World Cycling Centre as regards training, the delegation along with the UCI President, the UCI Director General and various staff, studied the development potential for cycling in Hungary.

They also discussed the development of the various cycling disciplines.

The best Czech BMX riders follow training course at the WCC

From 27th to 29th March, the World Cycling Centre (WCC) hosted the best Elite BMX riders from the Czech Republic. Under the supervision of their coach, Petr Tulach, five athletes improved their technique on the BMX Supercross track at the WCC and worked on improving their strength in the weights room. The Czech delegation included the young Tomas Slavik (14th in the UCI Juniors World Championships), the 2005 National Champion, Michal Pribyl and Lukas Tamme (7th in the 2003 and 2004 European Championships and 5th in the BMX Cruiser World Championships).

The best Swiss track riders prepare for the Bordeaux World Championships at the WCC

From 6th to 10th April, the Swiss athletes selected for the UCI Track World Championships in Bordeaux (from 13th to 16th April) train at the WCC.

The Swiss team includes, Franco Marvulli (silver medallist at the 2004 OG in the madison event and 2002 and 2003 scratch World Champion), Karin Thürig (bronze medallist in the 2005 World Championships in individual pursuit), Pascale Schneider (European Champion in the scratch in 2005) and Cédric Stoller (currently a WCC trainee).

UCI BMX International Commissaires Course

On 1st and 2nd April, the UCI organised for the second-year running, a proficiency course for UCI BMX International Commissaires appointed for the 2006 season.

Around ten Commissaires from five continents took part. These two days enabled them to gather information and discuss the various reforms underway.

Among these are the changes in formats, which will make BMX easier to understand.

The introduction by the UCI of continental rankings was unanimously welcomed and has increased participation levels on all continents.

The participants were also informed by Mrs Miller (USA), UCI International Commissaire about a new programme developed by the UCI to increase the

quality of BMX events. The final version of this programme will be proposed to all National Federations at the end of the year.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

Federico MUÑOZ FERNANDEZ (COL), tested positive with EPO during the race Vuelta a Guatemala (GUA) on 27th October 2004, sanctioned by the COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS), suspension of 2 years from 18th February 2005 to 17th February 2007, disqualification from the race. The CAS also fined the Federacion Colombiana de Ciclismo to pay the UCI a contribution of CHF 5'000.- towards the latter's legal costs. **Rory SUTHERLAND** (AUS), tested positive with clomiphene and hydroxy-Clomiphene during the race Deutschland Tour (GER) on 23rd August 2005, sanctioned by ROYALE LIGUE VELOCIPEDIQUE BELGE, suspension of 15 months from 16th September 2005 to 15th December 2006, disqualification from the race. **Gabriel POP** (ROM), did not present himself at the anti-doping control during the event Tour of Hellas (GRE) on 22nd April 2005, sanctioned by the COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT, suspension of 2 years from 27th February 2006 to 27th February 2008, disqualification from the race.