

2008 Olympic Games, Beijing: “The most amazing route in Olympic history”

The UCI Road Coordinator, Philippe Chevallier, and his Technical Adviser, Charly Mottet, visited Beijing from 7 to 13 May to inspect preparations for the Olympic road events (road race and time trial). Philippe Chevallier believes the cycling circuit for the 2008 Olympic Games will be “probably the most amazing in Olympic history.” The particularly selective route will take riders from the centre of Beijing to the foot of the Great Wall, where they will then ride several laps of a 24km circuit (vertical drop each lap: 450m). This circuit will also be used for the time trial events.

Subject to the approval of the Organising Committee of the 2008 Games (BOCOG) and the Chinese Cycling Association, a two-day race will take place on this magnificent circuit in 2007, as part of the UCI Asia Tour. The race will serve as an ideal test event for the forthcoming Olympic Games, both for the organisers and for the National Federations and their riders.

Urine sample analysis for the '99 Tour: Vrijman report on the UCI website

The report of Emile Vrijman, the independent investigator appointed on 30 September last year to look into the analysis of urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France, is now available in its entirety on the International Cycling Union's website (www.uci.ch). Mr Vrijman is a lawyer and former Director of the National Anti-Doping Agency of the Netherlands.

Warm welcome for Road Commission in Portugal

The Road Commission held its latest meeting on 18 and 19 May in Lisbon, Portugal. The Commission members, who were joined by UCI President Pat McQuaid, visited Portugal's National Cycling Museum in Caldas da Rainha, and attended a press conference for the launch of a book entitled “Ciclismo e rendimento” whose author, José Luis Algarra, is an internationally reputed coach.

Pat McQuaid also met the President of the Portuguese National Olympic Committee, José Vicente Moura, to discuss Olympic Solidarity programmes for young athletes.

Development of cycling in North Africa: Pat McQuaid visits Libya

UCI President Pat McQuaid visited Libya from 2 to 4 May. During his visit he met the President of the Libyan Cycling Federation, Adel Amer Abushawashi, to discuss the possibility of creating a UCI National

Technical Centre in the country. Mr McQuaid also met Mohammad Moammar Al-Gathafi, President of the Libyan National Olympic Committee, to sound out the prospects for NOC support of plans to build a new velodrome to replace the Tripoli facility, which no longer meets the requirements of the Libyan Federation. Finally, the UCI President visited the Alnaher Stadium, where construction of a new BMX track is in the pipeline. The stadium's sports medicine centre could in the future be attached to the proposed UCI National Technical Centre.

Russian Cycling Federation welcomed to the World Cycling Centre

On 22 May a delegation from the Russian Cycling Federation was welcomed to the World Cycling Centre. The Russian Federation was represented by its President, Alexander Gusyatinikov, Vice-President Yury Nagornykh (who is also Deputy Sports Minister for the city of Moscow), and Secretary General Evgeny Shatokhin.

The subjects discussed included Moscow's application to host the 2007 UCI Juniors Road and Track World Championships, a possible bid by the Russian capital for the 2011 UCI Elite Road World Championships and the development of BMX in Russia. The UCI also learned that a covered BMX track is under construction in Moscow, which is interested in hosting future international BMX events such as the BMX Supercross and World Championships.

UCI ProTour website: even more information

The UCI ProTour website has continued to grow since its launch at the beginning of March this year. Today the site contains all the relevant information on every race on the UCI ProTour calendar, along with complete results for every stage of each event. Since the site was relaunched it has received almost 200,000 visits, with over 1.2 million pageviews. These figures are in line with the expectations of the UCI, which makes a point of ensuring that all published information is completely reliable. Now that this aim has been achieved, the UCI is looking into ways of making the UCI ProTour site even more attractive. Website: www.uciprotour.com.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

Freddy Hamlet (FRA) tested positive for Heptaminol during the Tour of Martinique (FRA) on 16 July 2005; sanctioned by the FRENCH CYCLING FEDERATION;

suspended for 1 year from 3 February 2006 to 3 February 2007; disqualified from the race. **Maurizio Carta** (ITA) tested positive for Clostebol during the Nobili Rubinetterie GP (ITA) on 24 August 2005; sanctioned by the COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS); suspended for 2 years from 20 April 2006 to 20 April 2008; disqualified from the race. **Erwin Bakker** (NED) tested positive for Testosterone during the Vuelta Internacional a Valladolid (ESP) on 27 March 2005; sanctioned by the COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS); suspended for 2 years from 2 February 2006 to 2 February 2008; disqualified from the race. **Erwin Bakker** (NED) tested positive for EPO during an out-of-competition test in Mont St-Anne (CAN) on 23 June 2005; sanctioned by the COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS); banned for life; disqualified from the race. **Giorgio Landaeta** (VEN) tested positive for Norandrosterone, Norethiocolanolone and Ephedrine during the Vuelta a Venezuela (VEN) on 30 August 2005; sanctioned by the VENEZUELAN CYCLING FEDERATION; suspended for 2 years from 31 December 2005 to 12 December 2007; disqualified from the race. **Javier Guerrero González** (COL) tested positive for Stanozolol during the Tour of Guadeloupe (FRA) on 12 August 2005; sanctioned by the FRENCH CYCLING FEDERATION, suspended for 3 years from 17 November 2005 to 17 November 2008; disqualified from the race.