

UCI Road World Championships: the great Salzburg Festival

«The city of Salzburg has welcomed us with open arms and enabled us to experience a fantastic week. Thanks to everyone for these superb World Championships!».

It was with these words, marked by much applause from the public who watched with great enthusiasm the ceremony of the handover of the UCI flag from the Austrian organisers to the delegation from the city of Stuttgart, which will host the event next year, that the UCI President, Pat McQuaid officially closed the 2006 UCI Road World Championships.

The great highlight of this very memorable edition of an event which attracted more than 330.000 spectators worldwide, 160,000 of which on the Sunday alone, was without doubt the road race won by Paolo Bettini, Olympic champion in Athens in 2004 and winner of three World Cups, ahead of Erik Zabel and Alejandro Valverde.

The extremely close final of this race, especially with the direct battle between two of the greatest stars in modern cycling at the finish line, will be etched in the history of the Championships and in the memories of millions of fans who were glued to their TV sets all over Europe, and also in Australia, America, Asia and Africa.

Salzburg 2006 was therefore a great celebration for world cycling in the strict sporting sense but the media success of these Championships was also impressive, with more than 1000 journalists, commentators and photographers who helped to promote and broadcast the event.

UCI Management Committee meeting in Salzburg

The UCI Management Committee met on 19 September 2006 in Salzburg (AUT), a few days before the UCI 2006 Road World Championships. At this meeting, the UCI President, Pat McQuaid in particular informed Management Committee members about the preparation of an audit on cycling which will be carried out in the next few months.

The Management Committee awarded the following UCI World Championships: BMX 2009 in Adelaide (AUS), Junior Road and Track 2009 in Moscow (RUS) and MTB Marathon 2009 in Graz (AUT). It approved the 2007 Road calendars (Continental Circuits, Women, Juniors), BMX 2007 and Mountain Bike 2007.

Furthermore, it approved the UCI 2007 Mountain Bike World Cup calendar which includes 12 rounds, six of which are new races compared to last season. These races are the Gran Canaria (ESP) from 17 to

18.03.2007, Offenburg (GER) from 26 to 27.05. 2007, Champéry (SUI) from 09 to 10.06.2007, Angel Fire Resort (USA) from 30.06 to 1.07.2007, Lillehammer (NOR), on 25.08.2007 at the venue of the 2005 UCI Marathon MTB World Championships and Maribor (SLO) from 15 to 16.09.2007, former World Cup race from 1998-2002.

Opening of the 2006-2007 UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup in Aigle

The 2006-2007 UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup will begin this Sunday 1st October with the first round in Aigle. The world's best riders including the three first in the UCI 2005-2006 Cyclo-Cross ranking, the Belgians, Sven Nijs, Erwin Verweken (2006 World Champion) and Bart Wellens (2006 Vice-World Champion), as well as the Czech rider, Petr Dlask, the Frenchman, Francis Mourey (bronze medallist at the 2006 World Championships), the Italian, Enrico Franzoi (7th in the UCI Cyclo-Cross world ranking) and the Swiss champion, Christian Heule, will compete on the circuit located around the World Cycling Centre.

The UCI 2006-2007 Cyclo-Cross World Cup calendar is as follows:

01.10.2006	Aigle (SUI)
22.10.2006	Kalmthout (BEL)
28.10.2006	Tabor (CZE)
04.11.2006	Treviso (ITA)
12.11.2006	Pijnacker (NED)
25.11.2006	Koksijde (BEL)
03.12.2006	Igorre (ESP)
08.12.2006	Milan (ITA)
26.12.2006	Hofstade (BEL)
14.01.2007	Nommay (FRA)
21.01.2007	Hoogerheide (NED)

IPC Cycling to become part of UCI

On 14 September, the Sport Forum of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) which met at the World Cycling Centre, voted for a motion regarding the approval of the transfer of governance of IPC Cycling from IPC to the UCI. After years of close cooperation between the UCI and the IPC, the UCI Management Committee officially contacted the IPC in 2005 informing them of its intention to assume the governance and management of cycling for riders with disabilities.

In 2002, an agreement had already been signed between the two organizations to enable a successful collaboration in cycling for riders with disabilities. Cycling for riders with disabilities is, after Equestrian

sports, one of the IPC sports to have merged with its International Federation.

The IPC Governing Board will ratify the transfer of governance at its next meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next November.

Polygiro: first cycling tour involving the three biggest Polytechnics

On 20 September 2006, the first four day cycling tour involving the 'Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne' (EPFL, Switzerland) the 'Politecnico di Torino' (POLITO, Italy) and the 'Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble' (INPG, France) officially started.

This race is being organised as part of the inauguration of the new International Masters programme in Micro Technology which will be taught at the three institutes. Around fifty students, both men and women, left from Italy to go to France then Switzerland over famous passes like the Grand St-Bernard, the Montgenèvre, the Lautaret, the Alpe d'Huez and the Chartreuse Massif. They finished the tour on the shores of Lake Geneva at the EPFL.

The UCI assisted with the preparation of the circuit and the organisation of the race (safety, medical teams, race vehicles, etc).

Development of the UCI website

The new homepage of the UCI website (www.uci.ch) was unveiled on 25 September. This new look is the beginning of a huge gradual revamp of UCI websites. Objectives: easier to read, improvement of navigation, increase in information provided and development of on-line services.