



Union Internationale des Vélodromes
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Union Cycliste Internationale
Management Committee
Att. the President Pat McQuaid

Dear President,
Dear Pat,

I write to you as the president of the Union Internationale des Vélodromes, the only existing organisation for professional track-organisers, but also as a person deeply concerned for the best interest of our sport in common and track-cycling in particular. And I feel at the moment deep concern and worry about the future development of this sport.

What makes me write to you at this moment is the published plans for modification of the programme for track-cycling at future Olympic Games, starting from London 2012. I do understand, that the demands for less disciplines in total and an equality of disciplines for women and men might be matters, which are not only in the hands of the UCI, and I have no doubt, that the UCI Management Committee and you, Mr. President, are doing your utmost in order to serve the best interest of our sport in this regard. When we are talking about the choice of disciplines, however, I most strongly ask you to reconsider.

The discipline *Sprint* has since the very beginning been the fundamental discipline, not only in track-cycling but in the sport of cycling in common. Therefore I 100 % agree that individual sprint must be mandatory in the programme for both World Championships and Olympic Games. On the other hand one must realise, that the significance of the sprinters in modern track-cycling are still less. You might regret that development, but you can't change it, due to the fact that modern track-riders are for 98 % coming from the road. We are not in the 1950's but in 2009! And this fact must be reflected in the Olympic programme as well as in the programme for the World Championships. Therefore it cannot -in my best conviction- be right and fair to choose three out of five disciplines from the sprinters line.

You have chosen to delete the disciplines *Madison* and *Pointsrace* from the Olympic programme. By doing that you are eliminating two of the most popular disciplines among the riders – and in the eyes of the public. At least when we are talking of riders and nations, where track-cycling are still practised on a daily basis and not only something you consider in regard of World Cups and official championships. We have to decide, if we want a world of track-cycling, only consisting of four to five World Cups plus the annual World Championships and the Olympic Games every four year – or if we want track-cycling to survive as a sport, which lives its daily live on the tracks around the world. The answer to that question should be an easy one!

Arguments in favour of the disciplines Madison and Pointsrace:

- Disciplines popular and natural among the endurance-riders, which are the great majority of track-riders in 2009.

- Common disciplines on most tracks all over the world (Europe, Australia, South-America, USA etc.).

- Disciplines which offer chances not only to riders with great physical potential but also to riders with tactic and technical skills. The numbers of riders and nations which can participate at the great official championships with realistic expectations (chances for a medal) are much larger than in disciplines as for example TT-disciplines (Pursuit, 1.000 Meter etc.). This should be a very good argument and in agreement with the Olympic ideas.

- It is not true, when it has been said, that Madison and Pointsrace are not adequate disciplines for television. But it sure demands experienced and qualified producers, camera-men and co-commentators. In my many years in international cycling, I have had the privilege of assisting as co-commentator at several great international events.

My above-mentioned reflections and arguments are not only my personal points of view.

They are the result of a lot of discussions and talks I have had recently with very many persons from the inside of track-cycling –equally as me alarmed by reading your plans in the press- : Persons with ranks high and low in the hierarchy of track-cycling and persons with great experience and knowledge and with a very devoted attitude towards our sport.

Therefore I really do hope that you, Mr. President, and your board members as the present governing body for ALL track cyclists in ALL disciplines will reconsider your positions concerning the choice of disciplines for the future Olympic Games. The impact of the Olympics is so important that it will be a matter of life or death for track-cycling, that you make the right choice.

If I can assist you with any more information and argumentation I will at every time be at your disposal.

Yours sincerely

Henrik Elmgreen