

**REGISTERED**

Union Cycliste Internationale
Philippe Chevalier
1860 Aigle

Lucerne, 18 March 2008

Withdrawal from participation in the Nations' Cup 2008

Dear Mr. Chevalier,

At the latest management meeting, we decided not to run the Tell GP 2008 in the "Nations' Cup" category. There were a number of reasons for this decision.

1. Reschetnikov Case

On 14.9.2007, it was announced on a Russian Website that Reschetnikov had been found guilty of drug abuse in July 2007. We, as the Tell GP, lose credibility through this incident, because it is our principle not to let athletes suspected of drug abuse participate in the Tell GP. The UCI has always ensured us that no athletes participating in the Tell GP would ever be suspected of drug abuse. It is not acceptable for us and our sponsors that we had to learn of this case through the media. With its extremely passive behaviour, the UCI allowed the representation of the case to be distorted in the media. We actually assumed that in the prestigious "Nations' Cup", drug-abuse cases would be painstakingly punished, briskly settled and openly communicated. Unfortunately, we have discovered otherwise.

The Tell GP management tried to make contact with the UCI and suggested a discussion in Bern. The UCI was, however, not prepared to do this and stayed away from the meeting. We are now awaiting an explanatory letter from the UCI for our sponsors. This passive behaviour is bad for business and does not serve to improve the poor image of cycle racing. It should give you cause for thought when cycle-racing organisers of many years' standing such as us slowly lose faith in the UCI.

2. Unsatisfactory communication of the UCI with the Tell GP organiser.

On the occasion of the "Nations' Cup" seminar on 08./09.10.2007 in Nyon, our representative enquired about the results of the Tell GP drug tests conducted on 20.- 25.8.2007.

The UCI persons responsible for this gave the "Nations' Cup" representatives present to believe that the results had not yet been received and that the analyses always arrived very late. The Swiss laboratory concerned, we were told,



works very precisely but is a bit slow. When we enquired from the laboratory manager, we were told that the UCI had received the provisional results of the drug tests on 06.09.2007 and the final results on 19.09.2007. We do not feel being taken seriously, if we are obliged to conclude that the UCI is withholding important information from us.

3. Lacking UCI support regarding the "Nations' Cup".

The UCI does not give the organisers of the "Nations' Cup" sufficient support. A lot of energy is invested in technical regulations and setting up target areas without energetically supporting organisers with marketing. Although the "Nations' Cup" is "a UCI baby", its commitment in the media is insignificant, not to say inexistent. Instead of making useful marketing tools available, the UCI restricts the organisers' co-operation with the sponsors, when it comes to advertising. Uniform appearance in the starting and finishing areas makes sense only if the "Nations' Cup" is also seen as an own product in marketing. Apparently, the UCI is unaware of how difficult it becomes to organise and finance cycle-racing events, if the Union conducts a lax drug-abuse policy and haphazard marketing campaigns.

4. Financial burden

As compared to other U23 road cycle races, the cost of the UCI events are very high, which leads to substantial additional costs. There are no incentives to assume this additional burden – we see the UCI as the manager and not as the promoter of the "Nations' Cup". It makes no sense for us to organise the Tell GP as part of the "Nations' Cup" under these conditions.

Our decision not to participate in the "Nations' Cup 2008" was taken by the entire Organising Committee, the sponsors and the officers. We regret having to inform you of this decision and would ask you to include the Tell GP on the UCI calendar as a category 2.2 meeting – as in 2006. We will publish this decision in a suitable form.

Yours sincerely

TELL GRAND PRIX

Arno van den Berg