



# International Unicycling Federation

## Newsletter 2

### **Dear IUF members,**

After introducing myself a bit in Newsletter 1, I will use page one this time to give you a short overview about what has been going on in the IUF in the first quarter of 2013 and what we have planned for the closer future.

One big (more difficult and time consuming than we expected) issue right now is to prepare the IUF for its new role as a much more active federation with several thousand members that has the means to realize several projects.

Therefore, we need to go through some adjustments in the legal status and other details.

Jim Sowers, our treasurer currently invests a mountain of his free time to finish the bureaucratic issues. This is a pain and I'm very happy that he goes through it. In the past, the IUF was focused mainly on developing the rules and support all Unicon hosts. Now it's time to aim for some new targets. Two major goals are to offer new services to our members and to push the appearance in the media world. The new event calendar is the first service you can see and actually use. Besides, the new rulebook 2013 will appear in a Github system, which allows a much more comfortable translation process and some other features. We will also launch a new Website in 2013, which will include the World Record Database. Thanks to you, our members, we are now able to invest some money into these projects. You can be sure that

we are always thoroughly thinking things through, before spending a cent.

The IUF now has 1997 members, of which 1027 are female and 970 are male riders. 437 are under 15 years old, 747 are 15 to 25 and 814 over 25. All those members come from 38 countries. 63 percent are organized in national federations, 37 percent are independent riders. These are some encouraging numbers, but certainly no reason to relax. We support people in upcoming unicycle countries to implement structures, build a federation and promote unicycling in their country. In Russia, for example, the first bigger event will take place this year, the RUCON. We got a request from Bangladesh to help starting a federation. In South America the hard work of some riders now results in more and more riders and in the 4<sup>th</sup> LAUCC. A lot of good action is going on all around the world.

Beside all this, the board is debating about having official continental championships and offering a membership option for national organizations.

If you wish to contribute or have any feedback, please email us at [newsletter@unicycling.org](mailto:newsletter@unicycling.org). Please forward this newsletter to anyone interested.

*Cheers*

*Olaf & The IUF Team*

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## UNICON 17 Update

### **Hello fellow unicyclists,**

We are happy to inform you about the news and great progress we make for Unicon 17.

A lot of questions have been asked throughout the past months, and we're extremely glad to say that things are already looking great for Unicon 2014 as we have been hard at work ever since Unicon 16 ended.

### **Venues**

All the venues for the championship have been contacted and most importantly though, over half of these venues are now confirmed, some of which were locations we had dreamt of having for Unicon 17.

### **Accommodation**

We're currently in the process of confirming some exciting news as far as accommodation and social rooms go. Unfortunately, we will only be able to announce the news once everything is official. So stay tuned for updates! □

### **Website and Registration**

The official Unicon 17 website will be up and running before the month of May begins. We will have info for unicyclists planning on being in Montreal for the convention, as well as

information for Montreal citizens who might want to learn about unicycling, about Unicon and when they can come and watch the competitions. As far as registration goes, we are hoping to have it open by June, the latest. The opening of registration will be announced shortly after the IUF publish the new rulebook.

### **Directors**

Almost all of the discipline directors have already been chosen based on previous experience as a director during other world conventions. The core of the team is nearly complete and we will be able to announce its members soon!

We still have a lot of exciting information to share with you and are expecting to do this through our website by the end of this month!

With Unicon 17, we truly hope we can share Quebec's culture with unicyclists, and share our passion for unicycling for the citizens here in Montreal.

Thanks for reading this second newsletter. We look forward to receive all our fellow unicycling enthusiasts in August of 2014.

*Stay connected for more news concerning Unicon 17: [www.facebook.com/Unicon17](http://www.facebook.com/Unicon17)  
If you would like to help us by volunteering, please send us an email: [info@unicon17.ca](mailto:info@unicon17.ca)*

## How did he do it?

*Last summer in Brixen during Unicon 16, Martin Charrier won three expert titles in Muni and Track. Having next Unicon in mind, we thought it was about time to ask him how he did it.*

### **Hey Martin. How did Unicon 16 go for you?**

I am quite happy with my results. I placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the expert category of the 100m Unlimited, Cross Country (CC) and Muni Uphill competitions and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10k unlimited race.

### **On the days before the cross country competition, how did you prepare?**

The most difficult part of the cross country race was to decide which uni to ride on. I went on the track a few days before the race to see what it looked like and to decide if I would take my ungeared 24" or my geared 29". The Unicon 16 CC race did had some good technical and uphill parts, but a very long and not too bumpy downhill on which geared unis were going to be way faster. I practiced this downhill with my two unis until finally, after 2 or 3 more loops the day before the race, I decided to keep the 24".

### **Was that the right decision?**

I have actually been really lucky: No more than 10 minutes before my start, my father came to me with the ungeared 26" -140mm cranks of Romain Gadiolet, the main French unicycle seller who also sponsors me. It was a very light uni and I had never ridden this size of wheel. This was a great situation to try it! I was in the same heat as a French friend on a 26" geared uni. As expected, he took me some advance in the first downhill. But I finally caught him up at the middle of the uphill, what gave me confidence. During the entire race, I tried to ride as much of the uphill as possible because even if it's more tiring and sore than to walk, it's a bit faster. And as we can't run, it's the only way to take advantage of the uphill. I was relieved that my friend didn't catch up with me in the downhill of the second lap. Finally after some hard times going pretty slowly in downhill, but a mostly good time in uphill, here was the finish line!

### **What was it like to see the results?**

Scott Wilton, who until then had had the best time went straight to me to ask my time. After my

second place a few seconds behind him on the 10k race the day before, I was glad to learn that this time I was around 20s before him! Actually I was very surprised because I didn't even expect to be on the podium of this race. After spending the afternoon wondering of my official ranking, I finally saw my 1<sup>st</sup> place on the official results sheet. These small 24 seconds allowed me to keep my CC title from Unicon 15 in New Zealand.

### **Have you had any titles before?**

Yes, at Unicon 14 in Denmark for the expert standard 10k, at Unicon 15 in New Zealand for the Cross Country and Muni Uphill competition and in the Ugames 2010 in California for the Cross Country, Muni Uphill and Muni Technical competitions. I also have some titles from French Unicycling Cups.

### **What do you do right before a competition?**

A few days before the competition I classically eat noodles, sleep well and think of the race, the other racers and what would be the best way to ride it. I like to be familiar with the track of each race so I try to ride them in advance. From one



Martin Charrier during competition at the French Cup 2012

hour before each important race, I avoid talking too much with other riders, I check my uni, put on my bamboo shin pads and I warm up slowly by myself apart from the start area. I also like a lot to talk to non-unicyclists who are just there for the show. Answering all their questions about unicycling is a good way to evacuate the stress.

**What is your favorite thing about unicycling?**

**Why do you unicycle?**

My favorite thing about unicycling is the “maneuverability” and the handiness of it in every day’s life. I unicycle mainly for transportation, and I always have my uni with me even when I go by train or by car. In big cities like Paris or Lyon in France where I study, or Chicago where I spent one year, I use it to go everywhere: To class, buying stuff, going from the train to my room, visiting friends, taking the bus, going to the uni-basket training... I really don’t know another means of transport which allows riding at 20mp/h as well as zigzagging between pedestrians, jumping sidewalks, riding on the grass and still fits in a car’s trunk.

**Where do you practice? How often?**

So here is my training, plus some rides on cross country about once a month during school time and a bit more during holidays. When I do cross country, I go up the same way what I go down, so about 50 percent of my practices are uphill.

**When did you start riding?**

I started to occasionally ride in 2005 when my father registered both of us in a juggling activity. I started to practice every day after the French cup in Valbonne in 2005, when I saw the range of incredible stuff you can do on a unicycle. After two years of doing freestyle and trial, I got my first 29” to ride on long distances. And a year later, a cross country 24”.

**Where do you live? What do you do besides unicycling?**

I am from Etoile, a small village 100km south of Lyon, where I study mechanical engineering. After getting my diploma at the end of this year, I might start working or pursuing with a PHD. In France or abroad, I haven’t decided yet. Besides that I like to do handmade wooden or metallic stuff and classical sport like swimming, running and doing long raids.

**What is your next goal?**

In unicycling, my goal is to keep going this way, despite my entry in the active life soon. I would be glad do the same results at the next Unicon in Canada. I will keep practicing and motivating people to try unicycling. Right now, my aim is to improve myself in uni basketball, since I am training with the WOOM team of Lyon (world champions 2010 and 2012) and also to try to keep up with Christoph Hartmann, during the largest unicycling marathon on April 28th 2013 in Dusseldorf. Right now, he is holding the record in this race.



Matin Charrier during the awards ceremony for Cross Country with Mark Lavis (left) and Scott Wilton

# Making Freestyle as Popular as the Olympics

*Haruko Matsunaga is one of three directors of the IUF board. Here and in her home country Japan she is working towards making Freestyle Unicycling more professional and popular.*

## Nice to meet you, Haruko. Could you tell us about your involvement in unicycling?

Since 2012, I have been an officer on the IUF Board. I am an international committee member of the JUA (Japan Unicycling Association) and have been on the rulebook committee for several years now. At Unicon 16 in Italy, I was the chief judge for all freestyle competitions.

## How did you get involved in unicycling?

When my two daughters started unicycling twelve years ago, I was immediately fascinated by the sport.

## What was your best unicycling moment?

The moment, when the unicycle stage show, which I co-produced as one of the main staff members, was over and I realized it was a great success. (Website: <http://espressivo.main.jp>)

## What are you working on right now? What are you looking forward to?

Right now, I am coordinating the Japanese members of IUF rulebook committee. I am working on and looking forward to make the freestyle rules as fair as possible for all styles riding.

## What do you wish for the unicycle scene?

My biggest wish is to harmonize every style of freestyle and to make unicycling performances as popular as the Olympic sports.



Haruko Matsunaga with John Foss

# Fresh and Hot: New Uni Videos

In case you haven't seen them yet, here are some great new unicycling videos:

## Jacob ft. Ryan: Wood Works



North shore muni riding with Jacob Spera and Ryan Kremsater in Vancouver, Canada.

[http://youtu.be/8V0d\\_WxG5iM](http://youtu.be/8V0d_WxG5iM)

## Flux



A dynamic film by Raphael Pöhäm, demonstrating a new style of riding called „Flux“. With Aidan Teleki, Jakob Eschböck, Elias Pöhäm and many more.

<https://vimeo.com/63605569>

*Any recommendation for a video that should be in the next newsletter? Send us a link to [newsletter@unicycling.org](mailto:newsletter@unicycling.org)*

## Upcoming Events



*Have you heard of the unicycling event calendar yet? It tells you about all upcoming unicycling events around the world. If you host an event, or know of one that's not in there yet, just add it. This way, we'll prevent to have two similar events on the same weekend and help more people come to events. The calendar supports Google Calendars, iCal, CalDev and soon you'll be able to import Facebook events. What's your next uni event? Here's a little selection of events. To see all, go to [www.unicycling.org/event](http://www.unicycling.org/event)*

### **Eurocycle**

European Unicycle Convention, Langenthal, Switzerland, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2013  
[www.eurocycle2013.ch](http://www.eurocycle2013.ch)

### **BUC 2013**

British Unicycling Convention, Cardiff, England, May 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2013  
[www.unicycle.org.uk/buc2013](http://www.unicycle.org.uk/buc2013)

### **NAUCC**

North American Unicycling Convention and Championships, Butler County, Pennsylvania, USA July 21<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2013  
<http://uninationals2013.com>

### **EUC summer edition**

Extreme Unicycling Convention at EJC, Toulouse, France, July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013  
<http://e-u-c.info>

### **German Freestyle Nationals**

Norderstedt, Germany, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2013  
<http://www.einradverband.de>

### **German Race Nationals**

Bottrop, Germany, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2013  
<http://www.einrad-bdr.de>

### **NZUni Weekend**

New Zealand Uni Weekend, Dargaville, October 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

### **UniNats / APUC**

Australian Unicycle Championships & 4th Asia Pacific Unicycle Championships, Canberra, Australia, December 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2013  
<http://www.unicycling.org.au/node/239>

### **LAUCC**

Latin American Unicycling Convention, Lima, Peru, February 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 2014  
<http://www.latinuni.com>

### **Unicon 17**

Unicycle World Championships and Convention , Montreal, Canada, July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 12<sup>th</sup> 2014  
[www.facebook.com/Unicon17](http://www.facebook.com/Unicon17)

*Your event is missing? Add it to the international unicycling event calendar:*  
<http://www.unicycling.org/event>

*Thanks for reading. Ride safely!*