



## **LCA/VELOKHAYA NEWS UPDATE FOR SUPPORTERS/SPONSORS**

**DECEMBER 17, 2008**

### **LONG-AWAITED VELOKHAYA BMX OVAL OPENS!**

*First-of-its-kind facility will benefit Khayelitsha community in a number of ways*



### **A five-year dream to build a facility that would make cycling more accessible to disadvantaged**

communities was realised recently, on November 28, when the Velokhaya BMX Oval was officially opened.

The Oval is situated in the heart of Khayelitsha, Cape Town's largest township and the second largest township in South Africa, after Soweto.

The new BMX facility serves as a much-needed recreational facility for children; a place where they can have fun and learn new skills in a safe, secure environment. It will also assist the Life Cycling Academy in identifying future cycling talent.

We were extremely proud to have opened the Oval in less than a year following the groundbreaking ceremony - held on 14 December 2007 – and less than two years after Team CSC first visited the LCA in Khayelitsha.

### **MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE CEO**

*“It was fantastic to host many of our partners and supporters at the opening of the Velokhaya BMX Oval on Friday 28 November, 2008.*

*This special day marked a significant milestone for the LCA, and for Amos Ziqubu and myself who have had the vision of building a cycling centre in Khayelitsha since we started the Academy five years ago.*

*As we said on the day, there is no shortage to good ideas; realising them is another matter. Our passion and dreams have been realised thanks to the belief and support of our partners; the people and companies that share our passion to create sustainable infrastructure that will lead to a meaningful upliftment of the young people participating in our programmes.*

*I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all of our partners for believing in, and sharing, our dream and for being part of building a brighter and stronger South Africa of tomorrow.”*

We are also highly encouraged by the words of Velokhaya patron, Phil Liggett, who performed last year's groundbreaking.

Although Phil was unable to attend the opening due to personal commitments, his message to Velokhaya (see *below*) was highly appreciated.

### Generous support

The Velokhaya BMX Oval is the first phase of a long-term project which has been made possible with the generous support of a number of local



and international organizations, including CSC, Riis Cycling, Cervélo, Pick n Pay, Engen, Safmarine, Mars Africa, the Pedal Power Association and the Canal Walk Foundation.

***“The opening of the BMX Oval is the culmination of much effort by everyone at Velokhaya and you should feel justifiably proud. But this is only the start and I am now looking forward to seeing the youngsters progress, with some of them possibly making the Olympic Games in London in 2012. Congratulations to everyone who has made this dream come true.” – Phil Liggett, Velokhaya Patron and the ‘voice of cycling’***

In keeping with the eco-friendly nature of cycling, ‘re-cycled’ shipping containers - donated by Safmarine and converted with funds provided by Mars Africa and the Pedal Power Association - were used to construct the new BMX Oval buildings and BMX track starting ramp.

The Oval facilities include a viewing platform, a club house, toilets/showers, a race office and commentary box and the BMX track has been built to national competition standards.

### THE OPENING...



Key supporters at the opening were, from left to right: Karin Pohl, Pedal Power Association; Amos Ziqubu (LCA); Glyn Broomberg (LCA); Ian Burton, Mars Africa; Princess Kotyi, City of Cape Town and Fred Jacobs, Safmarine.

## THE FACTS ...



*"It is important to involve children - particularly those living in poor communities - in sport-based activities because sport has proven successful in preventing youngsters from becoming involved in negative activities such as crime and substance abuse. Sport also teaches important life skills such as cooperation, leadership, respect for others, knowing how to win and lose and knowing how to manage competition. Through sport young people learn about honesty, teamwork, fair play, respect for themselves and others, and adherence to rules."*



## THE FUN ..... AND THE FAME!



## (... AND THE ODD FALL!)

While LCA members are having a lot of fun on the new track, they've also had several reminders to take care on the track! A recent fall by one of our members resulted in him having to visit a local day hospital. When Anele Magadla broke his wrist, newly appointed Velokhaya Head BMX Coach, Swen Lauer (second left) paid him a visit and took along a number of 'goodies' to cheer him up!

*Pictured outside the X-Ray department are Andiwe Magadla, Lucas Tsholoba, Anele Magadla, Nombulelo Magadla and Fezeka Siqcwele.*



**TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE PHOTOS OF THE VELOKHAYA BMX OVAL OPENING ...**



Newsletter issued on behalf of the Life Cycling Academy by Debbie Owen, Do Communicate – [Debbie@communicators.co.za](mailto:Debbie@communicators.co.za)

**SEASONS' GREETINGS - AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2009!**

More information and photos visit [www.velokhaya.com](http://www.velokhaya.com) (see Gallery) and [www.lifeacademy.co.za](http://www.lifeacademy.co.za). (BMX Oval photos: Karin Scherbrucker)