



Global Club Competition

Communication No. 3

Welcome by Mr. Andrew Gabel, Chairperson of the Technical Committee for Short Track Speed Skating of the International Skating Union

Dear Friends:

As Chairman of the Short Track Technical Committee for the International Skating Union, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all.

The Global Club Competition was initially intended as a one-time event, which was first held in Mannheim in 2001. The positive reactions from skaters and coaches all over the world resulted in the decisions to organize another event for this season. The cooperation of the city of Mannheim and the organizational skills of the people of MERC made it an easy decision to continue the event in Mannheim.

I would like to thank the City of Mannheim and the Mannheimer Eis und Rollsport Club MERC for their help in making this Event a worldwide success. I had the great opportunity to lead the organization of the Short Track events at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. The Olympics are the highlight of a career that everybody looks forward to every four years. We should all realize that the athletes at the Olympic Games, at one point, were all members of a local club. If that club would not have been in existence, or if the enthusiastic coach did not teach them how to skate, their sporting career may have been over before it started.

With the Global Club Competition, we are trying to give these athletes an international format with which to improve their skills, as well as to learn how to compete on an international level.

I would also like to thank Reinier Oostheim. His passion for the sport of Short Track Speed Skating, as well as his great level of knowledge, was the basis for which this event was developed.

Please join me in wishing all the skaters a great event!

Andy Gabel
Chairman, ISU Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee