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Strategic Plan for Sports in the City of Valencia

The final conclusions document of the Valencia Strategic Plan for Sports, which includes 15 projects and 80 measures on the main action lines for the future of municipal sport, was unanimously approved at an extraordinary Board Meeting.

The document, on which more than 2,200 contributors from all groupings and agents of the sector have participated, is divided into three main sections that tackle the main sporting issues. The aim of this document is to provide a roadmap for everything related to sport in the city of Valencia.

The political consensus achieved, for which the Sports Councillor, Cristóbal Grau, thanked the support and wide participation of some 60 sports federations, more than 200 clubs, 200 experts, 220 bodies and institutions and more than 1,000 proposals from the public received on the web page, adds legitimacy to the Strategic Plan, which will come into being the year in which the city celebrates its designation as European Capital for Sport.

The main aim of drawing up this document was to study what the possibilities were of increasing public participation in sports among the Valencian public. Although the City Council, through the Municipal Sports Federation, has been the coordinator and promoter of this project, the aim was to produce a document with the widest participation possible. Everyone who has anything to do with municipal sport was invited to take part and their contributions have been gathered in it. A good example of this was the first study document, published last September.

The three main sections into which the study of municipal sport is divided are: sporting facilities; sport, health and education; and sport, economics and projection. In the first of these, issues concerning the installations and spaces where sport takes place are dealt with. The second studies the sports on offer and the third analyses the way in which Valencia projects itself externally and the economic and skills sector relating to our sports. To guarantee the scientific and methodological rigour of this process, an advisory council was set up consisting of three doctors from the University of Valencia and the Polytechnic University of Valencia.



Show jumping's Global Champions Tour returns with the best riders in the world

For the third year running, next to the Príncipe Felipe Science Museum, the best horses and riders in the world have gathered to compete at the Spanish venue for the Global Champions Tour, the show jumping circuit that is considered as the Formula 1 of show jumping. The warm public welcome of Valencia, the spectacular setting and the facilities that the city offers have once again been key to the success of this event, an event which enjoyed the most outstanding participation of the season. This year 30 of the 33 top riders in the international ranking have taken part.

The sports programme consisted of six trials corresponding to the CSI 5* and nine to the CSI 2* (trials reserved for amateur riders or those outside the international top ranking). On Thursday 5th May the atmosphere began to warm up with the official opening ceremony, the official training sessions and the opening of the commercial village and Horse Garden. On Friday, at 10 in the morning, the starting pistol of the competition sounded. From Friday to Sunday there were trials of the highest level from 10 in the morning to 8 at night.

This third GCT meeting represents the consolidation of an event which, from the first year, managed to capture the imagination of the public as a result of the setting and quality of the competition. Not only is it an event that generates wealth and tourist interest for Valencia and the Valencia Region but it has also allowed the public to enjoy this sporting discipline. Furthermore, it has proved to be popular as it is an event in which all the family can participate.



Valencia 2011 and the Film Festival jointly organise a cycle dedicated to sport

Last April, the La Petxina Cultural Sports Complex, hosted a cycle of films wholly dedicated to sport, as a result of Valencia 2011 working together with Valencia Film Festival. The themes dealt with were: popular athletics, climbing, car racing and cycling. In these full- feature films, values such as effort, sacrifice, and the will to overcome were emphasised. Films such as The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner, Touching the Void, Senna and Sprint Especial were shown within that series of films.

A novelty was the première of the film devoted to the deceased Formula 1 driver Ayrton Senna. Attending that film première were leading personalities from the world of motor sports such as Adrián Campos, Jorge Martínez Aspar and the director of the film Senna, Asif Kapadia.

At all the sessions, as soon as the films ended, reflections and experiences were shared on each particular film.

The assembly hall of la Petxina was converted, during this time, into a cinema attracting more than 500 viewers over four days. The money raised from the tickets sold for this series of films went entirely to the Valencia 2001 solidarity organisation, UNICEF, in order to promote sport among the most deprived children.



More than 7,000 women ran against cancer

At the beginning of April, around 7,000 women ran through the streets of Valencia to raise awareness of the fight against cancer in the Eighth City of Valencia Women's Race. For over the more than 5,370 metres of the course, the public were able to enjoy a unique context in which a festive and family atmosphere reigned. All participants enjoyed a morning more appropriate to summer in which physical exercise and the fight against this severe illness were combined.

Once in the Turia stadium, where the race finished, the participants continued exercising by giving mass aerobic classes. Among the runners participating in the Eighth Women's Race were top class athletes such as the long jumper Concha Montaner and the Olympic medallist María Vasco.

Following the success of this event and having confirmed its consolidation, Valencian women now have a race that they cannot miss.



The best Valencian sportsmen and women in 2010 have now received their awards

The eleventh edition of the Sporting Merit Awards of the City of Valencia was held last April. The setting for the official ceremony was the Municipal Hemicycle.

A total of 12 sportsmen and -women, bodies and personalities associated with the world of sport were recognised for their careers and work for sport in all fields. This time round, a new category, the Amorós Award for the “City of Valencia Sporting Merit” was created. This has been awarded to the person whose work was particularly significant for the development of sport in general and of local sport in particular. As announced, on this first occasion, the award-winner was the Professor of Sociology at the University of Valencia, Manuel García Ferrando, for having become a national and international figure

due to his extensive work on the sporting habits of the Spanish, which has provided huge statistical information. The list of award-winners was headed by Kike Boned, a futsal footballer of El Pozo de Murcia, who last year was proclaimed League, Cup and Super Cup winner with his club, at the same time as champion of Europe with the Spanish national side, and was named best player in the world. In the women’s category, the prize was won by Raquel Micó Sánchez, runner-up in the world Basque pelota frontenis section last October.



In terms of clubs, Power Electronics Valencia was the worthy winner of the prize for the Best Men’s Club for winning the Eurocup last season, whilst Valencia Terra i Mar did the same on winning the league and Cup in 2010 and for being the athletics club with the most prizes in history.

In the Best Sportsman or -woman with Functional Diversity section, David Bravo Torres, Spanish 100 metres champion, and Vanesa García López, Spanish 200 metres Champion, both from the world of athletics, were award-winners.

In the Sporting Event section, the jury decided on ‘Europilota 2010’, which attracts the world’s best world players to our city, especially to the final disputed in the Town Hall square.

The Media that has best supported and spread the reality of sport in the city was, according to the jury’s verdict, Televisión Municipal de Valencia, TMV, with its special reporting of commonplace and popular sporting events. For its part, the programme Sense Limits of Ràdio 9 was recognised for the best article and journalistic reporting thanks to its committed support and dissemination of sports and clubs that do not enjoy very much coverage in other media.

In the section for the Sporting Body that has most decidedly backed sport in Valencia, the work of Power Electronics, the main sponsor of the city’s basketball team, was recognised with an award.

The Career Award went to the former athlete Emilio Ponce, for his dedication to the practice and teaching of this sport. In 1951, Ponce was Spanish Champion and, later, as a trainer, he directed Olympic athletes and Spanish Champions such as Rafa Blanquer, among a long list of others.

Vicente Del Bosque talks of youth football training with the coaches of Valencia clubs

The national football team coach, Vicente del Bosque, took part in a training day organised in Valencia by the Municipal Sports Foundation of the City Hall. This consisted of a talk to the coaches of the city's football clubs on sports training and the importance of its values in education: a world where the national coach said he was "very comfortable, I learnt a lot when working with the football academy".



The Municipal Sports Foundation and Valencia City Council played hosts to an interesting and entertaining talk in which the national team coach, Vicente del Bosque, accompanied by experts and trainers from municipal schools, as well as coaches interested in football training. "Aspects of training and education. Experience of youth football" was the title on which the debate issues were focused in a year when Valencia is celebrating its position as European Capital of Sport 2011. For this reason a baton was passed on to him as a symbol of his position as Ambassador of Valencia 2011 together with a printed reproduction of the Antonio de Felipe's official poster.

The national coach began by revealing his first vocation: "I thought that I was going to devote all my life to the youth team. I was sure. In that third stage of my sporting life in Real Madrid I learnt a lot. My main task was to educate. The world has changed a lot and now we are immersed in the world of professional football". "We were all born in a nursery. I have experienced youth football, I know it well ... How young boys function, the parents, trainers... And all this has had repercussions on the good times that Spanish football is enjoying today", commented the coach from Salamanca.

The second edition of the Sports Facility Maintenance Manual has been published

The second edition of the Sports Facility Maintenance Manual was presented at the 1st European Conference on Sports Facilities in April. The publication is particularly aimed at managers and directors of sports facilities and to anyone interested in the topic.

The purpose of producing this comprehensive document is to help keep sports facilities in perfect condition and thereby prolong their life over many years, ensuring their safety and quality. Another priority for the Valencian Sports Foundation is the energy efficiency of its facilities, along with care for the environment.

The new manual forms part of one of the actions set out in the Valencia Sport Strategy Plan, in Chapter 2 “Actions towards greater quality, functionality and design of sports facilities”. The new builds and numerous refurbishments of sports facilities in the city of Valencia have led the Sports Foundation to add more information to this latest edition.

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