



Dear ICWW members,

We would like to ask you more for your support. We work with a lot of passion to keep our indoor cyclists all over the world on their bikes and to keep our projects going.

Get to know our ICWW mechanic in our 2nd newsletter, get further insights into our project in Rwanda, and find out which story is behind the creation of the ICWW online cup.

We are very proud and, above all, grateful for everyone who supports the Indoor Cycling World Wide so much in these times.

**Thank you so much!**  
on behalf of Rolf Halter and the entire board

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## ICWW mechanic Hermann Schön „screws“ at the right places



At Indoor Cycling World Wide we can consider ourselves lucky that we have an experienced mechanic in our ranks with Hermann Schön. He is at home in Gau-Algesheim. There is enough place for our ICWW bike's inventory at Schön Bikes. Donations of bicycles that we receive were often stored for years or decades in garages or basements. The bicycle material not only has to be dusted off but also completed in careful detail with suitable parts and made ready for use again.

When asked about his experiences with the ICWW's predecessor, the "Indoor Cycling Association", Hermann Schön raved about it. As a young cycle-ball player, he was a junior European champion together with his brother Robert and has a lot to say: "As young guys, we were allowed to go to Kenya with a BDR delegation. In a parliament building, we demonstrated Radball on the carpet. When I "played" a slipper lying around with the front wheel across the room, there was a standing ovation. Rolf Halter was also on this tour. Later we were allowed to go on an unforgettable tour to Japan with Hans Born. " At a World Cup in Malaysia, Rolf Halter then motivated Hermann to join the association. Today Hermann "visits" clubs with his company minibus, which hand in bike material, sift through what can still be recycled, and then gets the bikes in shape. "At the moment we have a dozen or so ready-to-use Cycle-balls bikes, a few unicycles but unfortunately hardly any usable artistic cycling bike in our inventory," complains Hermann Schön.

**Thanks to Hermann Schön for his tireless commitment!**

At this point, the ICWW board would like to call for a search of the association's collections. Please contact us. We are grateful buyers for used tubular tires. We are particularly looking for synthetic bikes in sizes 22", 24" and 26" with a frame height of 50 cm. This is the only way we can keep our projects going.

## A REPORT BY INKEN BERG FROM HER VISIT IN RWANDA (16. März. 2019)



In March of this year, I had the opportunity to get to know the Rwandan artistic cyclists in Kigali. Jonathan, the trainer, rounded up a few children for special training because I had to leave early due to the corona pandemic. We met in the morning as agreed in front of the training hall.

Unfortunately, on that day, it was announced that public events were banned in all Rwanda. Unfortunately, the hall in which the artistic cyclists usually train was therefore also closed. Nevertheless, Jonathan told me a lot about the children, who have already mastered which exercise and how they developed further in the sport and in their private life through training. The children, who were really looking forward to the training, decided without hesitation to ride the bicycles, which fortunately were stored at the trainer's home, on the narrow sidewalk on the side of the road. Even if it was less than 2m wide and made of trampled sand and earth, they showed me a few tricks.

After a brief consideration, we went to a nearby stretch of road that was not used by cars. There was a stone floor that was sloping, but apart from a bump was level. The larger area enabled many more exercises, such as also a saddle handlebar position. When the kids got to the sloping end, they just jumped off the bike and started up again. I was thrilled by the joy that the children radiated. It was fought to get on the bike to show some elements. Since only two bicycles are currently in working order, each of the ten or so children was able to spend little time on the bike. After only a short time, we were sent away out of the place again because we had not registered the training. Jonathan then told me that these children were lacking in many things. Several of the athletes I've met live on the streets, others have bad relationships with their families. Few children went to school before they got into artistic cycling. Through the training they have learned to

stick to rules and that they can achieve something through diligent practice. Only those who go to school are allowed to train regularly. Jonathan said there were many more interested children, but with 30 children he was at the limit. He cannot take more children because he only has two functional bikes. The other two have a flat tire and he cannot get new hoses in Rwanda's capital Kigali. How crazy, I think to myself, that our old, worn but otherwise intact tires are thrown away and here they are missing. During my time in Rwanda, I often felt the massive differences with Germany; the essentials were missing. The children train barefoot because they have no shoes. The pants have holes. And yet these children exude a satisfaction that I have seldom encountered in Germany.

I am happy to have made the acquaintance of the Rwandan artistic cyclists. Of course, I am happy that our sport exists in this country; but I am much more moved by the thought that sport plays such a special role here. Sport is a social project that enables children to have positive experiences, encourages them to go to school so that they have a chance to find a job later. Here, sport is more than a passion; the sport has an essential influence on the future of children.

### Inken Berg



## INTERVIEW WITH JONATHAN IRAKIZA (shortly before Corona)

**Dana:** *Hello Jonathan, I already know your project partner Anna, Behrlenbach. Now I would like to know you and everything about your experience with artistic cycling. I am very glad!*

**Jonathan:** Dear Dana, I am happy to hear that!

**Dana:** *How come did you meet Anna in Rwanda and what did you feel about the idea of artistic cycling?*

**Jonathan:** I met Anna on Instagram. She saw on my circus company profile some pictures of me and my unicycle, and then texted me. She was interested in what we were doing so she asked me to have a meeting and talk. In the beginning, when I started talking to her, we discuss making a cycling project using unicycles. But this didn't work because it was not easy to find those unicycles and I only had one.

**Dana:** *So you switched to artistic cycling?*

**Jonathan:** Yes. Some days later she invited me where she was staying here in Kigali and asked me my opinion about the idea for the project. She introduced to me artistic cycling. She also is an artistic cycling athlete. It was not easy to understand because it was the first time that I saw it. I was very interested after watching the videos and I felt very curious about the bikes. Then she told me that she received four small bikes from Germany. I was very happy to hear this good news!

**Dana:** *Wow, it sounds like it was a very fast process. And how did you start the project with the children? Was it in school?*

**Jonathan:** No, it was not in a school. I know different kids who used to participate in our projects in Kimisagara youth center. When Anna said that the bikes were already in town, I invited them. I went to the center and ask the leaders for a place to use. That's how we started the project and Anna started showing some tricks and how to do them.

**Dana:** *Nice! How many kids do you take care of training nowadays?*

**Jonathan:** In the beginning, while Anna was still here, they were more than 65. After she left, it was no longer easy for me to manage them by myself and the place was not big enough. There were always different activities that happen every day. I decided to select only 15 kids whom I can manage and take care of easily. I told the other ones that we will let them know when they can come back.

**Dana:** *Is it normal that kids have scheduled sports activities as in Germany? We have sports clubs where the kids are training, for example, artistic cycling and they have scheduled times.*

**Jonathan:** I am not sure but I know that every child has to decide to train the sport that he likes. Sometimes he may like one sport, but the parents don't allow him to train it.

**Dana:** *How do you manage on one side, learning how to be a successful trainer, and on the other side, actually being a trainer? I think there is still a lot for you to learn about different figures and the rules of this sport, so how do you master it?*

**Jonathan:** I read a book that Anna sent me. I watch different videos and show them to the kids. The kids and I decide together which figure they are going to learn and I talk to them many times to encourage them. I also tell them I will give a prize to the one who makes the figure better after two months. Well, I have to say that I really need to learn about artistic cycling in general.

**Dana:** *That is a good motivation. Do the training sessions work well? How often do you get together with the kids for the training?*

**Jonathan:** The training sessions work well but not as we wish because at this moment we are just using two bikes and 2 unicycles. We start by warming up and then I split them into groups. Each group has 5 minutes, so everyone can participate. I let them practice all the figures that they already learned and then we work on the new figures. We meet 2 times per week but the children are always asking for more days. We practice 2 or 3 hours each day.

**Dana:** *So, it is necessary to have new bikes.*

**Jonathan:** Yeah we really need them. It would help to have enough time for practicing. In December I use to organize a camp for them during the holidays in which they do different activities.

**Dana:** *Is there a kid whom you think is really talented and could participate in world competitions?*

**Jonathan:** There are two but I am not sure if right now they would be ready to participate in world competitions. Whenever we practice again, I will make videos and will show them to you.

**Dana:** *Sure! I am excited to watch them. When I think of your training with the 15 children and more bicycles... I am convinced that there is a lot of potential in the future!*

**Jonathan:** Yeah, I hope maybe one day you'll visit us and see the interest of our kids in artistic cycling.

**Dana:** *That would be amazing. I would like to ask you for some words to share with our readers of the magazine ICWW presents*

**Jonathan:** I can only thank everyone who is on the journey of building and promoting this sport all over the world. I promise that soon they will start seeing Rwanda artistic cycling athletes in World Competitions representing Africa, showing what they can do.

**Dana:** *Great words, Jonathan! Now last question: What means to you being a Co-project partner and trainer of Rwanda?*

**Jonathan:** It is really interesting for me. When I like what I am doing, means that I am ready to accomplish it. I am working for the success of this sport in Rwanda.

**Dana:** *Thank you very much for this interest and great interview for ICWW presents! Thanks for taking the time for it. I think everybody is excited to read about you and your kids in Rwanda!*

**Jonathan:** Thank you so much. I really appreciate the great work that you're doing.

**Dana:** *Thanks a lot. Greetings from Germany!*

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## THE STORY BEHIND THE CREATION OF THE ICWW-ONLINE-CUP

It is April 2020 and, with a few exceptions, the artistic cycling bikes are worldwide standing still. Mike is reading an article about online competitions in darts. Dart does not interest him really, but the simple principle about how to conduct the competition: You film your dartboard and play, virtually at the same time, against your opponents, who are distributed over all over the globe.

This idea must be transferable to artistic cycling. Especially in the single disciplines, where there is no contact with other people (except for the trainers). The risk of infection is therefore almost zero. Mike discuss it with his father (who is a developer of an artistic cycling rating software) whether he believes such a contest to be realistic. However, since even at the end of April only very few athletes were allowed to train, the idea of an online cup remains into the background for the time being.

In mid-May, Mike receives a message from his friend Martin Schön: "Hi Mike, How are you? Today I came up with an idea. Could we organize an online artistic cycling competition? What do you think? Would it be possible? " The idea was now definitive. The problem remained primarily in the scoring. The easiest solution:

- each athlete streams on his Facebook page and ICWW shares this streaming.
- Commissioners write their final result after each freestyle competition as a commentary under the Livestream video.

However, this seemed to Mike, in particular, not to be spectator-friendly. Fortunately, Mike's father was able to develop a first version for online scoring in just 3 days. Now we could finally test. As an expert from a commissioner's point of view, we could count on Andreas Maier (UCI commissioner, Commissar Trainer in Eastern Europe) for testing our idea.

The principle is simple: The athletes stream their freestyle live via Skype from the hall. The commissioners sit at home and rate based on the video. The scoring will be entered directly into the home computer and transmitted to the chief commissioner. Thus, the

spectators have the scoring at their disposal as usual (live display is in Livestream visible).

After some improvements and especially after Mike learned a lot in terms of technical implementation, we were able to lead the first practical test on 8.6. Martin drove his program in the hall, Mike and Andreas evaluated. It worked, so we told ICWW about our idea.

Here we also met with a lot of advice. Problems like different hall floors, different transmission quality, etc. were not taken into consideration, after all, an online Cup is no official competition! The fun should be in the foreground for the athletes. Therefore, the goal should be to make the sport known, to attract new members or donations to different artistic cycling projects of the ICWW, and most importantly, to keep the sport alive. Who knows how long "Corona" will be prevailing over us?

On June 27th it was now the "Welcome to the 1st Online Kunstrad Cup". Planned as a test, we were very positively surprised by the great popularity; 20 starters took part. Of course, there were still some difficulties or bad videos, but in the end, everyone was happy with a little more normalcy. Due to the success of the 1st Online Cup, the "ICWW International Artistic cycling Online Cup" was launched and on August 8th, 20 starters from 5 Nations fought for the day's victory. Which was calculated by a multiplier factor.

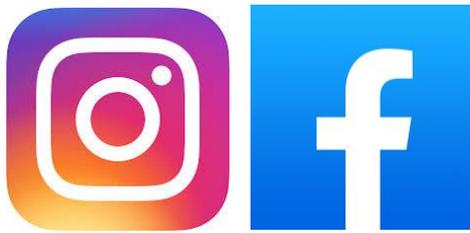
In both competition blocks, more than 4000 people were reached on Facebook, more than 100 people watched, some of them simultaneously. We are already looking forward to the next Online Cup on August 30th with more than 50 participating starters and about 70 athletes. Of course, we are already also looking forward to real competitions! But who knows, maybe in a future without a pandemic there will still be online cups.

### **We would like to address a big thank you to:**

- Gracia Sotomayor for preparing the certificates
- the Commissioners (Andreas Maier, Enrico Krien, Daniel Oberst, Veronika Kripnerova)
- Nico Budavari and Stefan Born for the moderation
- Kay Lauterbach for the extension of the scoring software
- all future Commissioners and other responsible persons
- athletes, trainer and sport assistants

And of course, ICWW for the distribution of the announcement, sharing in social media, etc..

**Martin Schön & Mike Lauterbach**



Follow us on Instagram or/and Facebook.

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