



## May 2006: the 24skate surprise in Zaragoza, Spain

Our omnipresent Ros discovered this event the last days of February, and after doubts, debates, meetings, and *many* explanations of what it was really all about, we managed to pull it through with remarkable results. We are just a year old, and this was our first big event.

It took place in a 200m closed track, on a hot sunny day, reaching 35°C. After setting up the tables, the sound system, UNICEF's booth, signs, water bottles, and all, the place quickly began to get filled with skaters.



Volunteers registered the skaters and each was given a UNICEF sticker and a number: 84 registered skaters with ages ranging from 3 to 56. But many did not actually register, so the figures are not as big as they should have.

We were lucky to have the support of Sheila Herrero, Spanish skating champion for many years, who not only skated with us and kicked off the event, but also





patiently signed each of the certificates which were given to the skaters after the event. She is well known for her generosity and support for similar causes, and the spreading of the skating sport.

Our MC, Enharina, kept the spirits high by constantly cheering the skaters, announcing the results, and the latest news on the track, even reminding us of the venues sharing the event with us all over the World, while the music played in the background.



Sergio Calvo covered the longest distance (28.8 Km) in 144 laps, and the track saw as many people gathered together as it ever had before, all sharing the fun of skating, and

contributing to the noble cause of helping children the World over by supporting UNICEF, and their current campaign against AIDS. UNICEF raised 216€ in donations, 74€ through sales of their merchandise, and 145€ from our Patinar-Zaragoza Assotiation's sale of T-shirts custom-designed for the occasion.



We organized the event, but UNICEF helped out with volunteers to keep record, assist the crowd and keep it all going smoothly. Also present were the Red Cross, who would have had nothing to do if yours truly wouldn't have fallen on a curve and scraped my shoulder.

Meanwhile, in the middle of the track, there were exhibitions, introductory trainings and all kinds of activities for skaters and especially children.



Above all, it was a great day for the whole family to enjoy. When receiving their certificates, the kids felt really proud of their achievement, and I bet this feeling is something they will remember.

We had some local TV and press to cover the event, with articles describing this first 24skate

experience in Zaragoza. The outcome was very satisfactory, and we hope to make it even bigger and better next year.

And finally, look who is wearing our T-Shirt: Mr. 24skate himself, Clemens Suerbaum.



Congratulations for your idea!

Harold Simmons  
[roller@haroldsimmons.com](mailto:roller@haroldsimmons.com)  
[www.patinar-zaragoza.com](http://www.patinar-zaragoza.com)