



*The World's gone Cube-shaped...*

## COUNTDOWN TO BUDAPEST '07



It's almost a full house for the 2007 World Speedcubing Championship, with three months still to go! Here is some background to the work we have been doing to prepare and an interview with Janos Kovacs who runs the Rubik Studio in Budapest – you'll be seeing him at the competition.

A team of us visited the city in April including Ron & Ton from the WCA, to get everything organised for the Big Event – and came to a Big Decision! Admirable as it was, when we came to check out the available space and facilities available at the location we had originally selected - Future House - we decided that it just wasn't big enough...

We have to plan for competitors, the WCA and Seven Town's organising team, judges, scramblers, record keepers and the media, plus the entrants' families and supporters, *and* the local audience... which we think is going to be pretty substantial, given that the Cube was invented in Budapest, and this is the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Championship** held there.

So we moved the event to an awesome new venue, the largest conference facility in Hungary! It's called the **Budapest Congress & World Trade Centre**, and it's absolutely beautiful... plus it's handily situated within the new Novotel Hotel, on the smart Buda side of city.

The biggest Rubik's competition organising team ever to hit a host city Myself and Chrisi, Ron and Ton, Ray Hodges from the PR team and a camera crew congregated at the Rubik's Studio in Budapest, to make sure everything is falling neatly into place.



Chrisi and Janos (Prof. Rubik's No. 2) discuss logistics



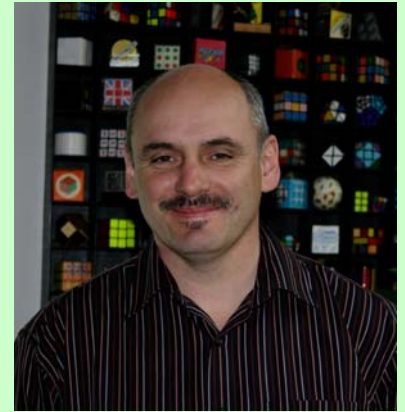
The film crew get an 'overview' of Budapest



... while Ron and Ton have checked out what goes on in the Rubik's Studio

# THE MAIN MAN

Janos Kovacs is right in the centre of things...  
he runs the Rubik's Studio for Professor Rubik



**Q** Janos, you have been running the Rubik's Studio for some considerable time now. How long is it exactly, and how did you come to do that?

**A** I have worked for the Rubik organisation for 20 years – part-time to start with, mainly on the design side initially (I designed the Magic), as I was also a private entrepreneur– until the country's tax system convinced me that going it alone was not something to be recommended in the new Hungary. I became Executive Manager of the Studio in 2002.

**Q** What activities are under your control, and how do you inter-relate with the guys at Seven Towns in London?

I'm now responsible – working closely with the guys at Seven Towns, who I meet up with regularly - for technical innovation, production quality, general planning, sales and logistics for Hungary and most Eastern European countries – but not Russia... You could say I am keeping the wheels turning (or the Cube twisting, if you'd prefer!).

**Q** We assume Professor Rubik is no longer involved in the day-to-day running of the Studio; but what sort of activities and issues does he still like to have a say in?

**A** Professor Rubik is now more or less retired from the day-to-day running of the Cube business, although he likes to have updates on what is going on with important projects, such as the World Championship. He is now in his mid-sixties and is still a practicing architect, designing mainly homes and city buildings, many of which are in the Budapest area.

We are hopeful that one of his children, Anna, who is now 26, will keep the family name going within the company – she is a talented designer, with a similar brain to her father – and joined us recently! The professor's son... also called Erno... has a totally different talent, he is a musician, and was recently accepted at the most prestigious music college in Hungary, the Liszt Ferenc Zeneművészeti Egyetem and is one of only 5 students taken on each year to study to be a conductor.

**Q** We're sure, that you, like us, are looking forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Championship at Budapest in October. We've been impressed with the performance of your top national Speedcubers on the European circuit of late. How do you expect them to do in the international arena?

**A** We are well on the way to getting the Championship organised, and I have been amazed and very pleased at how much interest there is already from the media, and at both the quantity and quality of the competitors who have registered so far. I am hoping that our Hungarian competitors (especially Milan Baticz and Matyas Kuti) will do their country proud. I am delighted that we have been able to move the event to the larger venue... we are expecting to welcome a huge crowd of very welcome visitors to our beautiful city in October.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the World Championship; seeing old friends and making new ones and most of all .....HAVING FUN !

Best wishes,  
Dave & Chrisi.