



BRITS WOW THE CROWDS AS MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CUP HOTS UP

The thousands of fans who poured into Fort William to enjoy day one of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in glorious sunshine were treated to a spectacular qualifying session which saw Britain dominate the field ahead of the finals tomorrow (Sunday 10 June).

Tickets for the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup are available to purchase on the day from the on-site ticket office priced from £8 for 6-17 year olds, £15 for adults and family packages (2 adults and 1-4 children) just £38.

Marc Beaumont brought the crowd to fever pitch as he pipped GT Factory team-mate Gee Atherton to first place, with World Downhill Champion Danny Hart hot on their heels in third position.

In the women's competition, fans' favourite and British downhill star, Rachel Atherton (sister of Gee Atherton) took top spot in the women's qualifying round, fending off fierce competition from Tracy Moseley, who moments before her qualifying run held aloft the Olympic Torch near the summit of the course, with the stunning surroundings of Loch Linnhe below.

Starting high on the upper slopes of the mountain, today's riders dropped 555m down the 2.8km boulder-strewn course, cheered on by thousands of animated spectators who have travelled from all across the UK and beyond to watch the world's best, push themselves to the limit on the revered Fort William course.

Off the track, fans of all ages mingled with the riders in the teams' pit area, tried out the latest bikes and visited the many other attractions in the World Cup Village.

Mike Jardine, from event organisers Rare Management said: "We've had a great first day here in Fort William with terrific weather and the British riders really delivering some fantastic times in front of the home crowd.

"The atmosphere has been incredible and it's set to get even better when we reach the business end of the competition tomorrow."

MEN'S DOWNHILL QUALIFYING RESULTS

1. Marc Beaumont GBR (4:42.440)
2. Gee Atherton GBR (4:43.480)
3. Danny Hart GBR (4:44.098)

WOMEN'S DOWNHILL QUALIFYING RESULTS

1. Rachel Atherton GBR (5:15.146)
2. Myriam Nicole FRA (5:25.106)
3. Floriane Pugin FRA (5:26.745)
7. Tracy Moseley GBR (5:39.649)

ENDS

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact Stuart Martin at Stripe Communications on 0131 561 8620 or 07540 372528. You can also email mtbworldcup@stripecom.co.uk

Notes to editors:

RockyRoads.net UCI Mountain Bike World Cup presented by Shimano

- The UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, now in its 11th year, is a key fixture in Scotland's sporting calendar and has been voted the best mountain bike event in the world by the International Mountain Bike Trade Team Organisation (IMTTO) four times and the UCI teams have voted it the best Downhill and Four-Cross World Cups a record breaking six times.
- Last year's event was voted as one of the Top 20 trips of 2011 by *National Geographic Traveller* editors.
- The Fort William event is one of eight World Cup stages taking place across Europe and North America, from April to September.
- The two days of competition are a huge celebration of mountain biking and the World Cup Village creates a family friendly festival atmosphere with loads of activities and entertainment to keep everyone captivated the whole weekend. All the World Cup events

will take place on or around the Nevis Range ski area and the Leanachan Forest, 9km from Fort William.

- The RockyRoads.net UCI Mountain Bike World Cup presented by Shimano is supported by EventScotland, VisitScotland, Highland Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and Nevis Range. The event is sponsored by Dare2b and Monster Energy.

EventScotland

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- EventScotland is working to make Scotland one of the world's leading event destinations. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit www.EventScotland.org.
- The Year of Creative Scotland 2012 will spotlight and celebrate Scotland's cultural and creative strengths on a world stage and is a Scottish Government initiative led in partnership by EventScotland, VisitScotland, Creative Scotland and VOCAL.
- More information and resources to help businesses engage with the Year of Creative Scotland are available at www.visitscotland.org/yearofcreativescotland-toolkit

