



### **BRITISH RIDERS TAKE PODIUM PLAUDITS FROM FAMOUS FORT WILLIAM FANS**

Thousands of passionate home fans cheered their British mountain biking heroes onto the podium today (Sunday 10 June) as the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup reached its conclusion in spectacular fashion.

American rider Aaron Gwin took the top podium place in the men's downhill following a tremendous show of power and skill on the challenging course. But homeland heroes Danny Hart and Gee Atherton (who won the Fort William stage in 2010) didn't disappoint the home support as they rounded off a remarkable day of racing in second and third place respectively.

French flyer Emmeline Ragot took the top prize in the women's downhill competition after fending off fierce competition from fans' favourite Rachel Atherton (GBR). With only half a second separating the two female riders, it meant a nail biting finale for everyone gathered at the finish line.

Celebrating his victory, Aaron Gwin said: "The fans here are awesome and they make this event so incredible. They are really knowledgeable and the atmosphere coming down to the finish here is like nowhere else we race."

Commenting on the support which led him to a second place finish, Danny Hart said: "The crowd were great at the bottom. When I had my head down, pedalling hard, they were by my side getting me through."

The leading Brit in the women's downhill, Rachel Atherton, added: "I'm not going to lie, I wanted to win here in Fort William more than ever before, so I'm gutted not to finish first."

“Fort William is a savage track and it kicks my ass every year, so I was really surprised to come first in qualifying yesterday, but you've just got to hold on here and unfortunately I couldn't quite do the business.”

### **Men's Downhill Final Results**

1. Aaron Gwin, USA (4:48.210)
2. Danny Hart, GBR (4:49.044)
3. Gee Atherton, GBR (4:50.726)

### **Women's Downhill Results**

1. Emmeline Ragot, FRA (5:27.089)
2. Rachel Atherton, GBR (5:28.404)
3. Myriam Nicole, FRA (5:36.505)

**ENDS**

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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **RockyRoads.net UCI Mountain Bike World Cup presented by Shimano**

- The UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

- EventScotland is the national events agency.

- 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](http://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](http://www.visitscotland.org/yearofcreativescotland-toolkit)

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