



**UCI Mountain Bike & Trials World Championships 2007
Powered by Nissan Sports Adventure
Fort William, Scotland 03 – 09 September**

Cross Country, Downhill, 4-Cross & Trials Mountain Bike Events
<http://www.fortwilliamworldchamps.co.uk/>

**Cross Country (XC) U23 Men's Championship
Women – Trials 20" & 26" Championship
4-Cross and Downhill Update**

Friday 7 September

WEATHER – Wet and misty

APPROXIMATE SPECTATOR NUMBERS

The return of wet and misty weather to Fort William saw Jakob Fuglsang (DEN) take the men's Cross Country Under 23 World Championship title in 1:54:4 (average speed 22.51km/h), with Nino Schurter (SUI) taking the silver medal in 1.55.48. The hotly fought contest between two Czech Republic riders was won by Jaroslav Kulhavy pipping fellow country man Jiri Friedl to the finish line by a mere four seconds in an exciting sprint finish.

Following the medal ceremony Jakob Fuglsang commented: "I've had some really bad luck in the past but to win this is just incredible. The whole experience has been amazing. I'm in good shape and showed today that I am capable of beating Nino [Schurter] so this is a massive step for me."

A downbeat silver medallist, Nino Schurter, added: "I came here for the gold but I only won silver. I am disappointed but I will go away, work harder and I'm determined to learn from this."

The ladies Trials 20" and 26" Championship was won by Karin Moor (SUI) with the silver and gold medals going to Spanish twins Gemma and Mireia Abant Condal. Karin, who has been World Champion on six previous occasions, beamed "It obviously feels great to win again but it seems to be a better feeling every year. The

course today was very technical and was probably one of the most difficult I have had to contend with so I'm delighted to win another championship."

Daily Update: 4-Cross Finals and Downhill Update.

The excitement has been building in Fort William and crowds are already gathering on the slopes of Aonach Mor ahead of this evening's floodlit spectacular 4-Cross Finals. The evening will finish with a firework extravaganza against the picturesque backdrop of Ben Nevis and Forestry Commission Scotland's Leanachan Forest.

The 4-Cross sees four riders competing against one another in a short technical course featuring a progression of large gravity defying jumps over both natural and man made obstacles. Top male riders include Britain's Dan and Gee Atherton (placed 19th and 4th in World Cup standings), Michal Prokop (3rd overall in the 2007 World Cup) from Czech Republic and American rider Brian Lopes (1st overall in the 2007 World Cup) promising some impressive gladiatorial displays. Top female contenders include Jill Kintner (CZE) and Anneke Beerten (NED).

British women are leading the field in the Elite Downhill following yesterday's seeding runs. Twenty-year old Rachel Atherton, 2005 Junior World Champion and Elite Bronze medal winner in 2006 (Rotorua, NZ), who has recently returned to international competition following a serious injury, rode the gruelling 2.82km Nevis Range track in 5:30.20. Tracy Moseley, 2006 World Championship Silver Medallist and 2006 World Cup Champion posted the second fastest time, seven seconds behind.

The Elite British men also fared well in the seeding run with Gee Atherton heading into the men's downhill final in second place with other GB contenders Dan Stanbridge and Marc Beaumont starting in 9th and 10th place. Injury stricken Steve Peat is currently sitting in 13th place.

The junior GB men's downhill team are confident of success with Ruaridh Cunningham, from Stow in the Scottish Borders, and Josh Bryceland currently taking the first and second fastest times with local rider Chris Hutchens, from Oban, in his first year as a junior, posting the 5th fastest time. The only GB female competitor in the junior downhill event Kate Curd placed the third fastest time.

ENDS

Full results available from www.uci.ch

Race reports available from www.britishcycling.org.uk

Editor's Notes

The UCI Mountain Bike & Trials World Championships at Fort William – powered by Nissan Sports Adventure – will be staged from Monday 03 to Sunday 09 September 2007 – For more information - <http://fortwilliamworldchamps.co.uk/>

Event Background

At the World Championships, an annual competition with the emphasis firmly on riding for country rather than for trade teams and sponsors, 700 of the World's top riders from more than 50 nations worldwide will compete across the four mountain bike disciplines of Cross Country, Downhill, 4-Cross and Trials for a total of 19 World Championship titles.

Organisers have estimated that 40,000 mountain bike fans and outdoor enthusiasts will descend upon the idyllic highland setting to watch the most skilled, high octane, adrenaline fuelled mountain bike action ever seen in the UK, bringing an additional economic benefit to Fort William and the immediate Lochaber area in excess of £2 million. They are urging spectators to book their tickets and accommodation now.

Tickets for the Worlds are on sale on the gate only.

Accommodation Booking – A directory of accommodation available in the Fort William and Lochaber area for the duration of the Worlds visit <http://fortwilliamworldchamps.co.uk/> and go to the Available Accommodation section. Alternatively Tel: 0845 2255121 (+44 1506 832121 outside UK) / [www.visithighlands.com /](http://www.visithighlands.com/) [www.visitscotland.com /](http://www.visitscotland.com/) www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk

Useful Websites

The UCI Mountain Bike & trials World Championships at Fort William - <http://www.fortwilliamworldchamps.co.uk/>
The UCI (International Cycle Union) – <http://www.uci.ch>
The British Cycling - <http://www.britishcycling.org.uk>
Nissan Europe - <http://www.nissan-europe.com/>
UK Sport - <http://www.uksport.gov.uk/>
EventScotland - <http://www.eventscotland.org/>
Forestry Commission Scotland – <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland> or <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/mtbscotland>
Highland 2007 - <http://www.highland2007.com>
VisitScotland - Adventure sports in Scotland – <http://www.visitscotland.com/adventure>
Nevis Range - <http://www.nevisrange.co.uk>
Outdoor Capital of the UK - <http://www.outdoorcapital.co.uk>
Bank of Scotland - <http://www.bankofscotland.com/>
Halfords Bikehut - <http://www.bikehut.com>
Cottages 4 You - <http://www.cottages4you.co.uk>

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