



**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/>

The UCI Mountain Bike World Championships at Fort William – powered by Nissan Sports Adventure - goes from strength to strength and the racing gets better and better, despite the widely varying weather. An estimated 8000 spectators watched today's events unfold as a jubilant Julien Absalon romped home to retain his World Championship title in this afternoon's Elite Cross Country race - breaking the long standing record for the most World Championship titles (3).

Absalon said, "I'm very happy and proud of the record. My motivation was not the record but to retain the beautiful jersey. There was no way I was going to lose it! I rode a perfect race on a perfect course and today is a special day for me."

He completed the gruelling 51.4 km course (six laps) in 2.17.06. The Swiss contingent added to their medal collection with Swiss riders Ralph Naef and Florian Vogel taking the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Home fans were left disappointed as British Number one rider Oli Beckingsale finished in 35th place. Having decided to race at very short notice Liam Killeen, the Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, who has not competed for most of the season due to ill health, rode a very strong race. With incredible determination and skill he fought his way 112<sup>th</sup> place at the start to finish in 44<sup>th</sup> place.

**Results:**

ABSALON Julien (FRA) 2.17.06

NAEF Ralph (SUI) 2.17.32

VOGEL Florian (SUI) 2.18.00

In the Women's XC race, Russia's Irina Kalentieva picked up, not just Russia's first medal of the championships, but also her first senior world title in the Women's Elite XC Final. Kalentieva beat 2003 world champion, Sabine Spitz by a margin of over half a

minute, with third place going to Chinese Jingjing Wang adding another medal to the Chinese team tally.

Kalentieva said, "I have been here for World Cups before but it was extra special this year. It was my dream to win the World Championships this year in Scotland. My dreams came true today."

British interest lay in Jenny Copnall, Ruth McGavigan, and Scalia, with Copnall coming 47<sup>th</sup> and McGavigan and Scalia finishing in 56<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> respectively.

**Results:**

KALENTIEVA Irina (RUS) 1.44.08  
SPITZ Sabine (GER) 1.44.47  
WANG Jingjing (CHN) 1.45.50

\*\* The record was previously held jointly by Henk Djernis from Denmark and Absalon.

**ENDS**

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 now. To book tickets visit <http://fortwilliamworldchamps.co.uk/> or phone - +44 (0)1397 705825

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](http://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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