

JUST GET OUT & RIDE

LIGHTSETS RATED p86

# mbr<sup>®</sup>

## MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDER

REPORT

### WORLD CHAMPS

Brit downhillers bring home the medals

SKILLS

### TRAIL FINDERS

We show you how to plan the perfect route

## Britain's toughest mtb event

Could we survive the 7-day TransWales challenge?



**FOUR  
FREE  
PULL-OUT  
RIDE  
GUIDES**

TECHNIQUE

## SKILLS SCHOOL

Learn how to improve your basic cornering

GROUPTEST

### HEAVY ARTILLERY

4 big-hitting suspension forks from Marzocchi, Manitou, Fox & RockShox

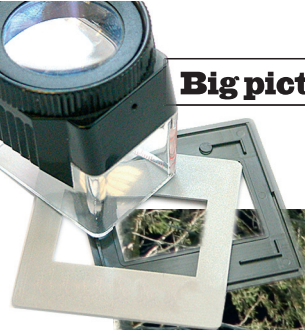


MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDER

NOVEMBER 2006

Just get out & ride





**FAR LEFT,  
LOCATION:**  
4X Final at the  
Mtb World  
Champs,  
Rotorua,  
New Zealand  
**PHOTO BY:**  
James Madelin

**LEFT,  
LOCATION:**  
Entering the  
dark, techie  
wooded  
section in the  
DH final at the  
Mtb World  
Champ s,  
Rotorua,  
New Zealand  
**RIDER:**  
Steve Peat  
**PHOTO BY:**  
James Madelin



**RIGHT,  
LOCATION:**  
At the top of  
the XC course  
on lap one of  
the men's XC  
race at the Mtb  
World Champs,  
Rotorua,  
New Zealand  
**RIDERS:** Oli  
Beckingsale (GB)  
& Florian Vogel  
(Sui)  
**PHOTO BY:**  
James Madelin



THE **BIG QUESTION**

**What's 2007 products have got you excited?**

"Surly Steamroller maybe; there's been a lot of singlespeed commuter stuff about"  
**David Jones, Hotwheels UK**

"The new Assos skinsuit"  
**Alan Muldoon, MBR Bike Test Editor**

"Garmin's iQue 3600, pre-loaded with all road maps of the US, ideal for my hols!"  
**Tom Hutton, routes guru**

"Trombonchino marrow seeds from mammothonion.co.uk"  
**Paul Burwell, MBR Technical Editor**

WORLD CHAMPS SUCCESS

Brits girls on top down under

For the second year running it was Britain's women downhillers who brought home the medals from the Mountain Bike World Championships, this year held in New Zealand. Tracy Moseley and Rachel Atherton flew the Union Jack down under by taking silver and bronze medals on the tough Mount Ngongotaha course. Moseley had qualified fastest in the seeding runs, looking by far the slickest rider through the technical middle section of the 2,200m course in practice. But on finals day a couple of small errors cost her dearly as she finished 3.5 seconds down on France's Sabrina Jonnier to take silver. A clearly disappointed Moseley told **mbr**: "I'm really pleased to pick up a medal, because I've never won one at the Worlds before. But I'd been building up for

this all season, and a couple of wrong line choices have cost me the gold." In her first full season racing elite — and only a year after being crowned junior world champion — Atherton added to her medal collection with a bronze. She said: "I can't believe it! I never would have thought I'd make it onto the Worlds podium so quickly!" Results were more frustrating in the men's event where Steve Peat missed out again, claiming fourth spot by finishing 6.89 seconds behind young Aussie winner Sam Hill. Peaty's final run was some 5.5 seconds slower than his second-placed seeding run, emphasising the effects of sporadic showers on some of the later starters.

FOUR CROSS (4X)  
The biggest crowds of the week flocked to see the 4X finals on a course that



TOP BRITS: Moseley (l) and Atherton

WORLD CHAMPS RESULT

DH ELITE MEN

Sam Hill (Aus); 2, Greg Minnaar (RSA); 3, Nathan Rennie (Aus) BEST BRITS: 4, Steve Peat; 9, Gee Atherton; 12, Marc Beaumont; 16, Dan Atherton

DH ELITE WOMEN

Sabrina Jonnier (Fra); 2, Tracy Moseley (GB); 3, Rachel Atherton (GB) OTHER BRITS: 6, Fionn Griffiths; 12, Helen Gaskell

DH JUNIOR MEN

Cameron Cole (NZ); 2, Sam Blenkinsop (NZ); 3, Antoine Badouard (Fr) BEST BRITS: 4, Ralph Jones; 17, Brendan Fairclough

DH JUNIOR WOMEN

Tracy Hannah (Aus); 2, Floriane Pugin (Fra); 3, Micayla Gatto (Can)

4X MEN

Michal Prokop (Cze); 2, Roger Rinderknecht (Sui); 3, Guido Tschugg (Ger) BEST BRIT: 4, Dan Atherton

4X WOMEN

Jill Kintner (USA); 2, Anneke Beerten (Ned); 3, Anita Molcik (Aut) BEST BRIT: 5, Joey Gough

XC ELITE MEN

Julien Absalon (Fra); 2, Christoph Sauser (Sui); 3, Fred Kessiakoff (Swe) BEST BRITS: 10, Liam Killen; 27, Oli Beckingsale

XC ELITE WOMEN

Gunn-Rita Dahle-Flesjaa (Nor); 2, Irina Kalentjeva (Rus); 3, Marie-Helene Premont (Can)

XC U23 MEN

Nino Schurter (Sui); 2, Tony Longo (Ita); 3, Max Plaxton (Can) BEST BRIT: 25, Ian Field

XC U23 WOMEN

Ren Chengyuan (Chn); 2, Liu Ying (Chn); 3, Sarah Koba (Sui) BEST BRIT: 9, Amy Hunt

XC JUNIOR MEN

Mathias Fluckiger (Sui); 2, Martin Fanger (Sui); 3, Pascal Meyer (Sui) BEST BRIT: 18, David Fletcher

XC JUNIOR WOMEN

Tanja Zakelj (Slo); 2, Julie Krasniak (Fra); 3, Nadja Roschl BEST BRIT: 8, Amy Thompson



racers claimed was among the steepest and scariest they'd ever ridden. Comprising 10-foot monster berms, a Red Bull wall-ride, and a third straight of huge doubles, it actually proved so scary that half the women's field withdrew from the event after one competitor's neck-breaking crash in practice. Facing a depleted field, it was American Jill Kintner who cruised to her second consecutive world title.

In the men's 4X another of the Atherton clan, Rachel's elder brother Dan, rode the best competition of his career, eventually making it to the final. Pulling off a superb early overtaking move, Atherton was lying in a medal place when he was clearly cheated off the podium by an illegal T-boning from Germany's Guido Tschugg. Amazingly, Tschugg had already despatched of another Brit, Will Longden, in similar fashion in his semi. Czech Michal Prokop took gold.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Both men's and women's XC titles went to form, with favourites Julien Absalon (France) and Gunn-Rite Dahle Flessja (Norway) bagging the rainbow jerseys. Special mention, however, must go to Britain's Oli Beckingsale who put in a storming performance and was sitting sixth for the first five of the seven laps on the tough climbers' circuit, ahead of veterans such as Thomas Frischknecht and Filip Meirhaeghe. As Oli's challenge faded in the latter stages, fellow Brit Liam Killen made up ground after a woeful start and claimed a very creditable 10th spot.

THANKS

To Air New Zealand and the New Zealand Tourist Board for providing the support for our World Champs coverage.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS MTB STUDIES

Canadians hit the books

A Canadian college has become the first in the world to offer a further education course in mountain biking. Capilano College in British Columbia is offering a £2,000 two-term course in Mountain Bike Operations at its Sechelt campus.

The course has attracted 24 students, keen to learn about trail design and building, event and risk management, the tourism industry and environmental stewardship. Students will also learn wilderness first aid and safe guiding practices.

The idea of a full-time bike industry job that doesn't involve selling bikes might seem alien to most Brits, but in bike mad Canada, it's a reality. The resort of Whistler-Blackcomb employs around 25 people to build and maintain its trails and elsewhere in the country, numerous resorts and local councils have jobs available for trail builders. With the course graduates' ability to guide as well, it should mean they are employable at home and abroad. Find out more at [www.capcollege.bc.ca](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca).



CANADIAN TRAILS: built by brainiacs

WHO'S THE GREATEST... LOCKE?



TOM LOCKE VS. LOCKE FROM 'LOST'

Locke, Chewy (1)	AKA	John (1)
Scrumpyland (1)	FROM	California (0)
MBR (2)	WORKS FOR	A box company (0)
Excelled in angling and ball sports (1)	PREVIOUS FORM	Was paraplegic before plane crash! (0)
Badger watching (1)	KEEPS EDGE BY	Winding up Jack (1)
Anything 'Hoff' and making i-Movies (1)	OBSESSED WITH	"The Others"; nos. 4 8 15 16 23 42 (0)
Has 'rolled' injured sheep on Killers (2)	HARDNESS RATING	Survived leg crushed in blast door (2)
Organic veggies and Rula Lenska (0)	INTERESTS	Wargaming and survivalism (1)
9	RESULT A lesson in class from our longest-serving staffer — lovely stuff!	5



4X FINAL: Roger Rinderknecht (03), Dan Atherton (22) & Guido Tschugg (04)



LIAM KILLEEN: finishing the Elite XC race strongly





■ GURU STEPS DOWN

## Jon Whyte retires

Britain's best known bike designer, Jon Whyte, this month retires from the cycle industry. The 50-year-old engineering guru — the man behind designs for Whyte and Marin bikes — is moving on after

11 years in the trade.

Jon has been at the forefront of full suspension design for the last decade and it was his first ever FRS susser that helped Marin rider Paul Lasenby to XC National Championship glory back in the 1990s — the first by any rider on full suspension. His latest work — the Quad Link II — featured on the bike used by Shaums March to win his Masters DH World Championship last month.

Curiously, Jon — whose Formula 1 suspension system helped Michael Schumacher and

Benetton to their first World Championship title — has announced his retirement just days after the German driver quit F1.

Ross Patterson of Marin and Whyte distributor ATB Sales said: "We wish Jon every happiness in his retirement. It has been a great decade and we have enjoyed working with such a consummate professional for all this time.

"But it's worth pointing out that his legacy continues with the design team at our UK R&D facility and there are exciting developments ahead."

■ NEW SCOTS TRAIL

## Red alert at Argyll

A new kilometre-long, red-graded descent has just been opened at Argyll Forest Park, as part of a £3 million project to upgrade local recreational facilities.

This challenging new section forms part of a 6km trail and has been specifically designed for experienced mountain bikers. It takes a direct line down the forested hillside with berms and other obstacles en route.

During the five-year access improvement project, work has been done on 200km of route improvements, including new cycle paths and links between forest roads that open up fresh routes.

Among the new trails in Queen Elizabeth Forest Park is the Doonhill route from Aberfoyle village car park, and a choice of three trails from the Milton car park in Lochard Forest. To help riders, Forestry Commission Scotland has installed 28 new information points at car parks throughout the Forest Parks. Each one has details of way-marked routes from that location, including an indication of routes suitable for cycling.

For more information on FC Scotland's mountain bike trails visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/mtbscotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/mtbscotland).

## Rider Poll

2007 WORLD CHAMPS, ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

**Tracy Moseley** (GB)  
DH silver medallist



**Rachel Atherton** (GB)  
DH bronze medallist



**Jill Kintner** (USA)  
4X World Champion



**How many times had you ridden your course before this week?**

**I rode the Oceanic Champs earlier in the year, but I've been riding in NZ four times now.**

**None.**

**None.**

**Hardest part of the course?**

**The technical section in the woods; there were so many drops and tight turns.**

**Probably the woods, with so many little techie turns. Plus the pedally sections for obvious reasons!**

**The third straight, in particular the first double where you really needed to check your speed.**

**Where did you struggle?**

**I was too cautious in the woods and lost time, and wasn't perfect on the bottom section either. I made half-a-dozen small mistakes.**

**I was pretty timid in the rock garden after crashing in practice. And I washed out into the tape at the bridge just before the rock garden too.**

**After riding the course a dozen times in practice I felt more comfortable. I concentrated on a good start and clean run which I managed in the final.**

**How did you rate your course in World Champs terms?**

**I rated it. It was a good mix of challenges, from the open stuff at the top, through the woods, to the rock gardens nearer the bottom.**

**Really highly. The top was open and good for the crowds, there were plenty of jumps and drops, and it flowed really well. When I walked the course I didn't think it would be that good!**

**It's the toughest I've ridden. It's so steep and the jumps are really tough. That's why it scared a lot of the riders off.**

**How pleased are you with your performance?**

**Very pleased because I've never won a World Champs medal before, but it's tinged with disappointment after having such a strong season.**

**I thought I could never better last year, but winning a medal in my first full season in elites is amazing!**

**It really feels great. My only regret is that the field was so small after so many of the girls pulled out [only eight started].**